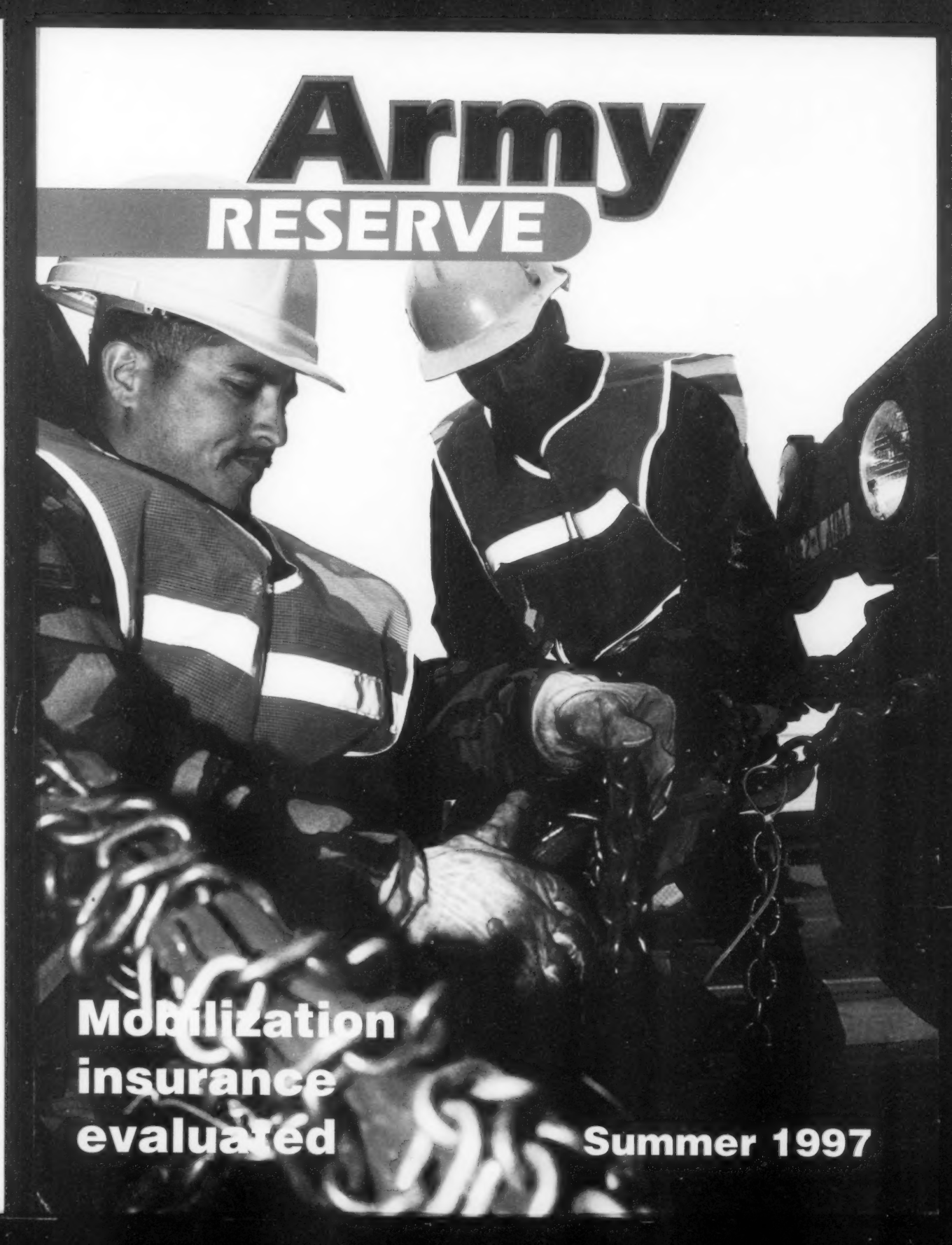
Army RESERVE



Mobilization insurance evaluated

Summer 1997

Maj. Gen. Max Baratz

From the Chief, Army Reserve

Everyone wins when we give back to the community

The festivities in Philadelphia surrounding the President's Summit for America's Future held in May have faded. However, the Army Reserve remains committed to making this country a better place for children.

As military members, you have unique training, experiences and individual talents. You are a pool of resources that can help your communities meet their citizens' needs.

I challenge units and individuals to increase your commitment to community service and volunteerism. Within the Army Reserve itself, thousands of soldiers donate their time and talents to ensure children and youth across this great country have what they need to lead healthy, fulfilling and productive lives.

Here are just two examples.

The 88th Regional Support Command at Fort Snelling, Minn., has a wonderful program called the Career Connection. In this voluntary program, soldiers go to local schools in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to talk about careers in the Army. The focus is on developing a relationship with kids, teachers and families in the community and sharing with them a sense of how the soldiers got to where they are in their careers. The volunteer soldiers talk about the major influences and role models that helped them succeed. After the presentation, the students are invited to tour the 88th RSC's Reserve Center and see soldiers on the job.

The U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis has an Adopt-a-School Program which began in 1993. Soldiers there work with students at Hempstead Accelerated Elementary School, located in a low socioeconomic community with a noted crime rate. The school population is about 300 in grades Kindergarten through 5th.

ARPERCEN has a two-fold mission in the school: mentorship and enrichment.

Mentors provide academic support, encouragement and motivation to students and present them with a positive role model. Mentors spend one hour per week with a student. This school year an average of 25 mentors participated and have chalked up more than 270 volunteer hours.

The enrichment efforts provide field trips and resource development to broaden students' exposure to the positive aspects of the community.

Everyone wins when soldiers provide volunteer services and give something back to their local communities.

From the Command Sergeant Major

CSM John E. Rucynski

Soldiers are relevant to our mission

No matter where I travel to visit our great Reserve Component soldiers, I am consistently told by many Active Component Command Sergeants Major of the great job each of you are doing. Though this may seem strange to you, I tell them they did not need to tell me that. I know of the great dedication and commitment each of you have for America's Army Reserve. I told them they needed to pass the word to their peers, to make sure the nay sayers know we stand tall among our brethren in the profession of arms. We are committed, we are dedicated, we are truly professional and we are relevant to the mission.

America's Army Reserve is a value-added leader in America's Army and the Nation...trained, ready and relevant, enabling the Army in peace and war to achieve total victory. It is that way because though we know that the mission comes first, it is always the soldier who provides the foundation, it is each of you who make us the great institution that we are. Because you are that foundation, we can ill afford to lose you or the great skills you possess.

You are important to our relevancy and our mission. What this equates to is retaining quality soldiers; that mission belongs to each of us, every private, every sergeant, every command sergeant major and every officer. We must work to retain quality soldiers. We do that by ensuring that the most important mission we have is our soldiers; they are our future, they are our foundation, they are our relevancy.

If we can follow but a few simple points, something I call our Moral Compass, we can and will retain soldiers:

Do what is right every day, legally and morally; take ownership for what is right and wrong.

Create an environment where soldiers can truly be all they can be. Allow for honest mistakes that make them better soldiers and us better leaders.

Treat others as you would have them treat you. Each of us must see what our soldiers see from the ground level. The view from the top is sometimes clouded. The view from the soldiers' level keeps us focused on the mission.

Train, Lead and Care (TLC) for soldiers and families.

We must always focus on the future. The future is our soldiers; that is our moral compass.

Army Reserve Magazine

Since 1954. America's largest circulating military magazine.

Maj. Gen. Max Baratz, Chief, USAR
Lt. Col. Jon R. Fory, Chief, Public Affairs

Capt. Cheryl Phillips, Editor-in-Chief

ARMY RESERVE Magazine is an official Department of the Army publication, published quarterly by the Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, DAAR-PA, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310-2400 in accordance with Section 278, Title 10, USC. The Secretary of Defense has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of public business as required by law. Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 2, 1986, in accordance with provisions of AR 310-1. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army or the Chief, Army Reserve, nor should they be construed as official policy or directive in nature. Local reproduction of all materials is approved, except for copyrighted articles or photographs .

ARMY RESERVE Magazine invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest to members of the United States Army Reserve. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to ARMY RESERVE Magazine, 1815 N. Fort Myer Dr., Suite 204, Arlington, VA 22209-1805; telephone (703) 696-6212 or DSN 426-6212, e-mail USARmag@ pentagon-OCAR1.army.mil or fax (703) 696-3745. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

ARMY RESERVE Magazine is distributed free of charge to members of the United States Army Reserve. Circulation is approximately 560,000. Paid subscriptions are available for $6.50 per year domestic, $8.15 foreign. Single copy price is $2.50 domestic, $3.13 foreign. Mail a personal check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents to: New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, or fax your order to (202) 512-2233. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, do not write the magazine. Members of Troop Program Units should notify their SIDPERS-RC clerk. Members of the Individual Ready Reserve and Individual Mobilization Augmentees should contact their Personnel Management Team at ARPERCEN, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. Paid subscribers should forward their address change to the Superintendent of Documents, Attn: Mail List Branch SSOM, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Special military distribution recipients may write the editor directly.

ARMY RESERVE Magazine is on the World Wide Web at http://www.army.mil/usar

Contents

Summer 1997 **Volume 43, Number 1**

News Features

4 Mobilization Insurance
8 Operation SMART

Features

8 Reserve helps FEMA
9 Flood relief
14 AMC and Reserve
18 Medical specialist in Panama
20 All smiles in Panama
23 PLDC
25 Soldier Show
28 Fort Discovery
29 U.S. Disciplinary Barracks

Training

10 Operation Welsh Eagle
11 Blowing smoke
12 Prairie Warrior 97
13 Laundry & bath at Roving Sands
15 Golden Cargo
16 Medical care in Paraguay
19 New Horizons-Panama
21 Building roads at Roving Sands

Health & Fitness

22 New PT uniform

Departments

2 From the Chief
2 From the CSM
6 News Update
24 People
26 Kudos
30 Mailcall

Page 8

Page 16

Page 18

Correction

In the article "Brothers and sisters" on page 29 in the Spring 1997 issue of "Army Reserve Magazine," the town of Slavonski Brod is in Croatia.

Front cover. Spc. Richard Rodriguez (left) and Sgt. Joseph Barajas from the 211th Transportation Company, Monterey, Calif., chain down a HMMWV during Patriots Move held earlier this year. **Back cover.** Spc. Nancy Malo at the helm steers a tugboat through Commencement Bay during Patriots Move while Vessel Master Dean Cargill supervises.

CONGRESS MAY SUSPEND PLAN

MOB INSURANCE

BY MSGT. STEPHEN BARRETT

DOD RECOMMENDED Congress suspend an insurance program designed to compensate Reservists involuntarily called to active duty.

Deborah Lee, assistant secretary of defense for Reserve affairs, said the department would honor its commitment to pay those now deployed to Operation Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard. However, poor program marketing, low participation and a $72 million deficit is forcing DoD to rethink its Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance Program.

Speaking before the military personnel subcommittee of the House National Security Committee in Washington, D.C., May 8, Lee told panel members both DoD and Congress recognized the insurance program was unique. "We realized that there were risks associated with the judgments we made about certain aspects of the program," Lee said, "but felt that the risks were acceptable and the judgments the best we could make."

"WE REALIZED THAT THERE WERE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE JUDGMENTS WE MADE ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM," LEE SAID, "BUT FELT THAT THE RISKS WERE ACCEPTABLE AND THE JUDGMENTS THE BEST WE COULD MAKE."

In February 1996, Congress enacted the optional insurance program as part of the fiscal 1996 Defense Authorization Act. Under the program, Reserve Component members contribute to insure against loss of their regular income if they are involuntarily called to active duty.

However, only 24,600 of the 900,000-member Selected Reserve currently participate in the insurance program -- far below the 40 percent figure defense officials anticipated would apply.

To complicate matters, just as the new law took effect, DoD announced more deployments to support Joint Endeavor. In most cases, Reservists called up for Bosnia duty enrolled for the maximum amount — $5,000 a month.

Lee said the program suffered what commercial insurers call "adverse selection" — too many people who knew they were getting called up bought the insurance. RC service members not set for call-up virtually ignored the program. The net result, she said, was the fund immediately lost an estimated $72 million.

To offset the expense, the House and Senate appropriations committees recently recommended inclusion of a $72 million request in the fiscal 1997 emergency supplemental appropriations bill. The amount was approved when the president signed the Disaster Recovery Act of 1997 in early June.

If Congress suspends the program,

benefit payments would continue for the 3,000 service members currently enrolled and deployed. However, Reservists in the program who aren't deployed would halt premiums.

Reservists due income insurance benefits received full monthly payments starting with July as a result of recent congressional legislation. Each Reservist due deferred benefits will receive a full, lump sum payment in August. (See related article, page 6.)

Lee said a number of factors contribute to the low program enrollment. She said the initial program enrollment period, combined with new Reserve activations for Bosnia-Herzegovina, led many to believe the program was solely for Joint Endeavor participants.

Another factor was a marketing problem. "Marketing materials were not available until the last minute because the premium rate was not approved until the middle of August 1996," Robert Lieberman, DoD's assistant inspector general for auditing, said. Still, he said, DoD had no comprehensive marketing plan to inform Reserve troops of the plan.

Lieberman said each RC handled its own marketing, with different degrees of aggressiveness and efficiencies. "Four provided toll-free telephone numbers; three of those also furnished information on the Internet," he said. "The rest of the Reserve Components offered neither. Only the Marine Corps and Coast Guard mailed a package to every Reservist."

Those inconsistencies also appear in a recent survey conducted for the General Accounting Office. The study said 27 percent of Reservists contacted never heard of the insurance program. Another 16 percent said they knew about the program but did not have detailed information or enough time to make an informed decision. "With better marketing, more of these Reservists might have enrolled in the program," Mark Gebicke, GAO's director of military operations and capabilities issues, said.

DEBORAH LEE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESERVE AFFAIRS

Lee said a third concern was the time Reservists had to enroll in the insurance program. Those in the Ready Reserve prior to Oct. 1 had until Dec. 30, 1996, to select their insurance option. DoD considered those failing to act on their options as declining coverage.

DoD enrolled Reservists and Guard Members who entered the military on or after Oct. 1 automatically at the $1,000 basic level. They have 60 days from entry to exercise one of four options: enrolling at the basic level of $14.20 per month for $1,000 of monthly coverage; increasing coverage in $500 increments up to $5,000 per month ($61 maximum premium); decreasing coverage to $500 per month ($6.10); or declining coverage.

Finally, Lee said, many RC members weren't interested, possibly because they believe their activation is highly unlikely.

Despite the request to suspend the program, both Lee and subcommittee members still promote the need to protect civilian income for those called. Lee said should Congress approve the proposed legislation, DoD would conduct a study to answer the questions of income protection. Lee said she feels these questions could play in DoD efforts to enhance RC recruiting, retention and quality of life.

Defense officials said the insurance program is not a dollar-for-dollar replacement of lost civilian income. Rather, they designed the program to help close the gap between civilian and military pay. Benefit payments for insured members in covered service could last for up to one year, or a maximum of 12 months of any 18-month period.

However, to collect benefits, deployment orders must specify that the member's duty is in support of war, national emergency or to augment active forces for a contingency operation.

Lee said extensive use of RC forces during the Persian Gulf War prompted Pentagon officials to establish some kind of insurance program. A survey of RC members revealed about two-thirds of the nearly 268,000 service members activated during the war suffered economic loss.

Service members said they suffered losses because their military pay is less than their civilian income and because deployment increased family expenses. Self-employed RC members suffered the most losses caused by the adverse effect on their client base during deployment.

Officials said that Reservists' losses were widespread across all pay grades and military occupations. About two-thirds of the enlisted members and more than half of the officers surveyed indicated interest in buying income insurance.

BARRETT WRITES FOR THE AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE.

Mob income appeals

An appeals procedure has been established for Reservists who have experienced problems with their Ready Reserve Mobilization Insurance Program enrollment.

Appeals may be handwritten or typed. You need to include as many details as possible, such as the date you were notified, how you were notified and any supporting material explaining the reason(s) the enrollment application was declined, late or never received.

Troop Program Unit soldiers must appeal through their chain of command. Individual Ready Reserve and Individual Mobilization Augmentee soldiers must file appeals directly to: Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, ARPC-SFS-F (RRMIIP Appeal), P.O. Box 32463, St. Louis, MO 63132-0863.

Benefit payments are considered as taxable income for the year in which they are received. Since no taxes are withheld from the benefit payments, members who were paid benefits during 1996 should have received an IRS Form 1099 from DFAS-CL for use with their tax return. If you are in this category and have not received your form, call the number listed below.

If your servicing finance office can't provide information about the program or your account, call the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Cleveland, at (216) 522-5238 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 7:30 p.m., EDT.

Military pay entitlements

You've been called to active duty. You're probably wondering what your military pay entitlements are.

Two of them are Variable Housing Allowance and the authority to sell back more than 60 days of leave.

The payment of either of these entitlements depends on whether you were called or volunteered to serve in support of a 10 U.S.C. 101(1)(13) contingency operation. To be a contingency operation, a military operation must either:

1. Be specifically designated by the Secretary of Defense, or
2. Involve Reservists called to active duty under Sections 688, 12301(1), 12302, 12304, 12305 or 12406 of Title 10 U.S.C., or
3. Involve Reservists called to active duty under Chapter 15 of Title 10, or
4. Involve Reservists called to active duty under any other provision of law during a war or national emergency declared by the president or Congress.

Presently, there are only two active military operations that are designated as contingency operations pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 101 (1) (13) by the SecDef: Operation Restore Hope and Operation Joint Guard.

However, the SecDef designation which established Operation Joint Guard as a contingency operation also included "all operations of the U.S. armed forces in and around the territory of the former Yugoslavia, for the purpose of participating in and supporting a NATO military force."

As such, Decisive Edge (Deliberate Guard) and Decisive Enhancement (Determined Guard) are also contingency operations. Moreover, OJG is the legal successor to Joint Endeavor. While the SecDef has not designated OJG as a contingency operation, no specific designation is needed because Reservists are participating in the operation pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 12304.

Here's a recap of the VHA and the sale of leave entitlements for Reservists (including volunteers) ordered to active duty:

VHA -- Reservists serving on active duty in support of a contingency operation are entitled to VHA from the day they begin active duty. The duration of the order is not important. A Reservist serving on active duty, but not in support of a contingency operation, must serve on active duty for at least 140 days to be entitled to VHA.

Sale of Unused Leave -- Reservists ordered to active duty for a contingency operation may be paid for more than 60 days of unused leave. This rule does not apply to Reservists serving on active duty for other than contingency operations.

Contact your chain of command if you have any questions.

Mob income tax concerns

The payment of lump sums to Reservists due income insurance benefits in August prompted a note of caution from tax and finance officials.

All Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance Program benefits must be reported as taxable income, even if received while serving in Combat Zone Tax Exclusion areas of Operation Joint Guard. The CZTE applies to military pay only.

More importantly, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service *will not* withhold taxes from insurance benefits, as it does for earned income (military basic pay, for example). That means the soldier is responsible for paying federal and, if applicable, state taxes.

Reservists are highly encouraged to consult early with a tax adviser to avoid potential late payment penalties.

While each Reservist's income and tax status is different, an Internal Revenue Service spokesman suggests Reservists set aside 30 percent of the lump sum payment to cover federal taxes, and another 3-6 percent for state taxes if the soldier's home of record required military

members to pay state income tax.

Another option is to increase the federal tax withheld from basic military pay for the rest of the year. However, that *may not* cover the total tax owed on the RRMIIP benefits.

A third option is to pay estimated taxes quarterly on RRMIIP benefits using IRS Form 1040ES. For some soldiers, this may be required to avoid a tax penalty. Again, check with your tax or financial adviser for details.

Reservists who receive RRMIIP benefits this year will receive IRS Form 1099R in January 1988.

GulfLINK

GulfLINK, the World Wide Web site, has a new interactive electronic mail capability. The feature allows Gulf War veterans and the public to communicate directly over the Internet with the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses.

The GulfLINK Web site was established in August 1995 to provide immediate on-line access to medical, operational and intelligence documents from the Gulf War that might help the Defense Department better understand the nature of illnesses experienced by many veterans.

The e-mail capability can be accessed through the Internet at: http://www.dtic.mil/gulflink

From this site, click on the "E-mail" button or scroll down to the underlined e-mail address: brostker@gwillness.osd.mil

The first issue of GulfNEWS, a bi-monthly newsletter serving the interests of Gulf War veterans, was mailed to more than 2,500 Gulf War veterans in May.

You can view the on-line version of the newsletter of the GulfLINK web site by clicking on the "News" button in the left hand column. Viewing this newsletter requires Adobe Acrobat, a free package which can be downloaded from this site.

Besides the GulfLINK Web site, several toll-free numbers are available to Gulf War veterans to report information or to receive a medical evaluation. The Gulf War incident hotline number, (800) 472-6719, can be used to report information related to experiences from the war.

People still on active duty experiencing health problems they believe might have resulted from their service in the gulf can call the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program at (800) 796-9699. Those separated from the service who have health concerns can call the Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) PGW-VETS (749-8387).

AGR positions

ST. LOUIS -- The Full-Time Support Management Directorate, U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, discontinued the on-line Active Guard Reserve positions file June 1.

The file, available for download from both Military City Online and the FTSMD Internet Web Page, was discontinued because of the confusion and frustration it created in the field.

The change was also made to improve customer service.

First placed online two years ago, the file allowed AGRs and prospective AGR soldiers to view all AGR positions in the program regardless of their fill status. The file was meant to be a service and career planning tool. It let users search the position database by MOS, grade, city and state.

Although extremely helpful to some AGRs, the file created many problems. First, most prospective AGRs and even some current AGRs were confused over its purpose and incorrectly thought that the file was a "vacancy" file. This produced a deluge of calls to FTSMD personnel managers from soldiers asking why they couldn't have positions that, in reality, were already filled.

Second, the file was not real time due to constant structure changes and was only meant to display AGR positions worldwide for information purposes.

Eliminating the on-line file will free up PMs to devote more time to working with the individual soldiers they manage, resulting in better service.

No OSB

The Army has eliminated the Officer Selection Battery for Officer Candidate School effective Sept. 12, 1996, and for the Reserve Officer Training Corps program beginning with the 1997-98 school year.

In lieu of the OSB score, OCS applicants may submit Scholastic Assessment Test or American College Test scores that meet program requirements. An applicant needs to score 850 on the SAT or 19 on the ACT to qualify. Two-year ROTC scholarship applicants do not have to submit SAT or ACT scores. Three- and four-year applicants are required to submit a minimum qualifying score of 850 for the SAT or 19 for the ACT.

For OCS application, any qualifying score on the ACT or SAT is accepted, regardless of the age of the score. For ROTC, the college's admissions policy specifies the acceptability of the score. In general, a score less than five years old is acceptable.

DANTES authorizes the funding of the SAT or ACT one time. DANTES Test Control Officers may authorize a funded retest only if the original funded test score is not considered current to meet a legitimate service requirement. Score improvement is not a basis to authorize a funded retest.

For more information about these policy changes, contact Lynn Steed at Headquarters, Department of the Army. She may be reached at DSN 221-3588 or commercial (703) 325-3588 or e-mail steedm@hoffman-emh1.army.mil

PSC homepage

Here's a Web site you may want to take a look at: http://www.army.mil/usar/psc/ocarhp.htm

It's the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Pay Support Center Homepage. There you can tap into The Authorized Federal Travel Directory. The on-line version replaces the printed manual and features many enhancements.

SGLI

The cost of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance dropped from 9 cents per $1,000 to 8.5 cents, beginning July 1.

Officials with DoD's compensation office said the monthly premium on a $200,000 policy dropped from $18 to $17.

Officials credit the decrease to low death rates in the U.S. military and more efficient administrative operations.

USAREC photo

Operation SMART

By Kathleen Welker

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Recruiting for America's Army has become an all-Army occupation since a new program requests installation and MACOM command sergeants major and sergeants major enter into a "recruiting partnership." Operation SMART (the Sergeant Major of the Army's Recruiting Team) will provide an opportunity for both the U.S. Army Recruiting Command and the Army's senior NCO leadership to enhance and provide assistance to the recruiting missions for the Army.

Operation SMART is a worldwide referral program for soldiers to refer prospective applicants to the appropriate recruiting personnel. Referrals have proved to be one of the best means to gain quality enlistments. By expanding the numbers of soldiers who are actively looking for military prospects, making recruiting every soldier's business, the chances for success are greatly enhanced. This program enables soldiers to play a vital role in the selection process of those with whom they serve.

Each soldier who refers an applicant, resulting in an enlistment into the Army Reserve or regular Army, will receive a certificate from the Office of the Sergeant Major of the Army. Any soldier who makes enough referrals that result in three enlistments will receive a coin from the Office of the SMA. At the end of each quarter, USAREC will publish the units and names of soldiers who have provided the most referrals and the most enlistments from those referrals. At the end of each fiscal year, the soldier who has provided the most referrals resulting in enlistments will be invited to the Annual Chief of Staff of the Army Recruiter of Excellence Award Ceremony for personal recognition by the Chief of Staff of the Army and the SMA.

All Army Reserve and regular Army units with a command sergeant major or sergeant major will be included in this program. The initial mailing of information will be for MACOM, installation and Regional Support Commands command sergeants major who will redistribute to their subordinate commands.

(Welker writes for Army News Service.)

Marvin Ellis

Alden Taylor, SEMA director of public affairs, points out the most damaged areas of Indiana to PFC Melissa Hale.

Reserve and FEMA team up

The Federal Emergency Management Agency spent March and April housed in the USAR Center located at Fort Benjamin Harrison, outside Indianapolis. FEMA came to Indiana to provide federal assistance to the nearly 3,000 individuals, families and businesses victimized by the floods in southern Indiana.

The use of the Reserve center marks the first time FEMA and Indiana's State Emergency Management Agency have used an Army Reserve building as their Disaster Field Office.

Using the Reserve center has saved tax payer money. We are "spending just under $8,000 a month for the DFO we are running in Jeffersonville (Ind.), so this being Indianapolis, it probably would have been in excess of $8 to $10,000 a month," Richard Polley, FEMA's chief of staff, said.

Clarification

Contradictory information was printed in the Spring 1997 issue of "Army Reserve Magazine."

The Army Reserve Personnel Center has closed their overseas liaison offices July 1. Local Reserve commands will assume most of the personnel services and management to IMAs and IRR soldiers in Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Germany.

ARPERCEN will not provide a liaison NCO to work at 7th ARCOM headquarters in Germany to train ARCOM personnel on how to provided services to IRR/IMA soldiers.

The transition should be transparent to soldiers.

Flood victims tap into purified water

Nearly 120 Army Reservists from Montana, Utah and Colorado participated in relief efforts in flood ravaged Grand Forks, N.D., in April and May. The Reservists provided purified water for residents and provided facilities for other relief agencies.

The 370th Quartermaster Battalion (Water Supply) of Great Falls, Mont., was the command and control headquarters for a water exercise moved by the Army Reserve from California to Grand Forks. The exercise was moved to provide purified water for the flood victims within the Grand Forks area.

The 889th Quartermaster Company (Supply) of Great Falls and Missoula, Mont., and the 347th Quartermaster Detachment (Water Purification) of Missoula, also supported the mission. They were joined by soldiers from four other Army Reserve units of the Salt Lake City, Utah-based 96th Regional Support Command. These units were the 348th Quartermaster Detachment (Water Purification) of Bismarck, N.D., the 423rd Transportation Company of Fort Carson, Colo., the 651st Quartermaster Company (Water Purification and Distribution) of Ogden, Utah, and the 854th Quartermaster Company (Supply) of Logan, Utah.

The Ringsak U.S. Army Reserve Center in Grand Forks was used as a communications center by the Grand Forks Police Department, the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office, the North Dakota Highway Patrol, the Fish and Game Department, the U.S. Border Patrol and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The quartermaster units purified and distributed potable water to flood victims. The transportation unit moved the 651st's equipment from Utah to North Dakota.

The Reservists operated the Army Reserve's Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units, which filter and purify water for drinking. A ROWPU can purify 2,500 to 3,000 gallons of water per hour. Each quartermaster unit can process water 24 hours a day, and comes with a 30-day supply of chemicals and filters. Eleven ROWPUs were used.

The units were scheduled for a May training exercise in California. But the Army Reserve offered to move the exercise to North Dakota to provide additional drinking water to the flood victims. The offer was accepted by federal and North Dakota emergency relief officials.

USAR photo

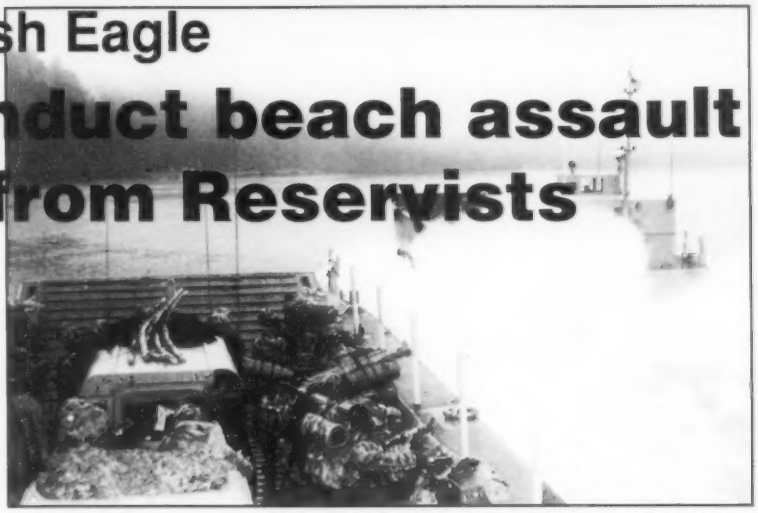
USAR photo

(Top photo) Spc. E. Jake Panter, 854th Quartermaster Company, Logan, Utah, tests water quality. (Left) A ROWPU with supply pumps operated by the 347th Quartermaster Detachment.

Operation Welsh Eagle

British conduct beach assault with help from Reservists

Story and photos by SSgt. Melanie Rowton



British soldiers prepare to assault Solo Point during Operation Welsh Eagle.

If you're planning to visit Buckingham Palace you might want to say "hello" to a recent Washington state visitor.

Standing in a top-notch uniform, shiny boots with a clean shave and a stiff neck, 21-year-old Pvt. Wayne Walters of the British army performs numerous missions...from infantry to interior guard for the queen.

Recently, more than 300 soldiers from the British army took part in Operation Welsh Eagle, which brought this impeccable soldier out of the queen's castle and onto landing craft owned and operated by the 185th Transportation Company of Tacoma, Wash.

The British soldiers traveled to Fort Lewis, Wash., performed marksmanship training and then were ready for their primary training mission, which transported them from Tacoma's Pier 23 to Solo Point, about a two-hour boat ride away. There, they conducted a full-scale beach assault.

Landing in five waves of artillery, infantry, and then antitank platoons, the British soldiers secured the beach in less than an hour in early February.

The 185th was contacted just a few weeks earlier and had little time to get soldiers to volunteer to support the mission, which was conducted on a non-drill weekend.

Members of the 185th coordinated with the British Army on the number of craft to be used, the amount of equipment to be transported and where to dock and load. Landing activities for soldiers and equipment at Solo Point had to be closely timed while avoiding opposing fire from the beach.

"We're using five of our 12 ships to transport them," said SSgt. Rhonda Frederickson, operations NCO for the 185th. "It's been something. We were scheduled to begin loading the troops and equipment at 0400...but it was moved up even earlier at the last minute to 0300. That meant none of us got a lot of sleep."

The British soldiers had absolutely no sleep. They were up all night at their barracks on Fort Lewis preparing for the assault. Before that, they kept busy with other training such as map reading and land navigation overviews, and they had even conducted live fire exercises with their anti-tank missiles.

"We had to go over our mission and make sure everyone knew the maneuvers and plan of attack," said Walters.

"We double-checked our weapons, made sure everything functioned, made sure we had enough water, food, ammo, clothing and just basic maintenance that was needed," he said while double-checking his face camouflage.

From the looks of their bulging 100-pound rucksacks, they had everything they could ever need, including anti-tank missiles and necessary tripods to launch them, which they carried tightly secured to their rucksacks.

Huddled around jeeps, HMMWVs and other vehicles onboard the landing craft of the 185th, the British soldiers tried to catch some shut-eye during the two-hour ride from Tacoma to Solo Point before the assault. The cutting wind forced some of them into their sleeping bags or into the vehicles onboard.

But while the British soldiers slept for the first time in two days, the 185th Trans. Co. soldiers were wide awake steering the crafts toward the beach and coordinating with the ground commander. They moved the crafts at 10-minute intervals toward the beach. Five distant foglights could be seen as the crafts edged their way quietly toward the landing point.

An landing craft mechanized makes its way toward Solo Point beach to unload British soldiers.

Watching from the beach as the soldiers hustled off each landing craft, Lt. Col. Michael Pierce, commander of the 124th Transportation Battalion, the higher headquarters of the 185th, and the commander of the British battalion were impressed.

"It was very exciting watching from the beach," Pierce said. "The pyrotechnics, smoke and weapons that were engaged when the first infantry wave

See 'British' on page 23

After a two-hour boat ride, a British soldier applies camouflage before the beach assault.

Spc. Paul Price begins to blow smoke at the start of the training exercise.

Chemical company blows smoke

Story and photos by SSgt. Melanie Rowton

When you think of a unit with a mission to "blow smoke," several options could come to mind about their actual duties.

The 349th Chemical Company of Fort Lawton, Wash., left no one's mind to wonder during its recent annual training. Unit members conducted live smoke exercises to ensure they were "up to snuff" in the field of "blowing smoke."

"A lot of people don't realize the importance of a chemical company and the multiple uses of smoke during a war," said Capt. Michael Parish, commander of the 349th

"Smoke being used to cover an area so the enemy can't detect movement or to obscure what's going on is very important during war time," Parish explained.

"Also, since we can blow smoke to cover a three-mile area, the enemy can't narrow down exactly where we are within that area or if we're in that particular area at all.

"Sometimes we even blow smoke to divert the enemy from another location of action altogether. In those cases we would cover an area where nothing was going on just to divert them. We're rather devious in a sense but during war it saves lives and allows us to get the mission accomplished," he said.

During the annual training, the 349th soldiers quickly understood that blowing smoke isn't as easy as turning on a fan and throwing in flour. While training at Fort Lewis at an overnight field training exercise, the unit members had training on the mechanical smoke generators (M3-A4) that they had received only in December 1996.

"We received training on the generators, land navigation and finding the best location to set up and blow smoke," said SSgt. Ferdinand Caballero, the operations NCO for the unit. "We have to know how to calculate how much fuel we will need and how long to run the generators to get the haze or blanket coverage we want. This depends on the current wind speeds, wind direction, humidity, air pressure and the location of the target area. A lot of things have to be taken into account."

Before the end of the second day's training, the unit had set up the equipment, had practice runs and performed a unit mission to haze a targeted area for 15 minutes.

After a few missions involving actual trouble shooting and problem solving to get the generators running, the soldiers became comfortable with the new equipment and how they work.

"I've had some problems and system breakdowns. But that was good because it allowed me to troubleshoot and do some real-life problem-solving with the equipment. Instead of reading the manual halfheartedly, I had to pay attention and find out what I needed to know to get it running again," Sgt. Mark Morgenstern, a chemical-operations specialist with the unit, said.

Even though the equipment was new to the unit, the M3-A4 smoke generators are not new to the Army. Within the coming year or so the unit plans to upgrade to the newer electric smoke generators that will require only the push of a button instead of arm pumping to begin smoking an area.

"The new smoke generators will be fully integrated by mid-1998, and we will be trained and up to speed on them then. Meanwhile, learning on the ones we have is great, and the soldiers have really teamed up to solve problems and make things happen out here," Parish said.

He added that decontamination during chemical operations was the other half of the unit's mission.

"That means our unit stays busy before, during and after a combat mission. We provide smoke coverage for units, then clean up the guys and their equipment if they've had chemical contamination later," Parish said. "That's a pretty big mission for a 72-man unit, but these guys can handle it ... and I'm not just blowing smoke," he said.

(Rowton is assigned to the 70th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office, Fort Lawton, Wash.)

Prairie Warrior 97

High-tech exercise tests log support

By Maj. Allen Kenitzer

FORT LEE, Va. — Imagine an Army exercise without combat troops or the whistle and thunder of artillery. In fact, imagine no field activity whatsoever. If this idea doesn't stretch your imagination to the limit, then you might be able to envision Prairie Warrior 97.

Prairie Warrior is an annual Army battle simulation command post exercise conducted in early May at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and Fort Lee, Va., using state-of-the-art computer technology. As a capstone exercise, Prairie Warrior complements the Army's Command and General Staff College curriculum at Fort Leavenworth.

With more than 300 participants at both locations, the focus is on the planning and execution of tactical operations at the corps and division levels where faculty measure student performance. C&GSC conducts corps-level play; the Reserve's 310th Theater Support Command, Fort Belvoir, Va., conducted the echelons-above-corps portion.

"One part of this exercise is designed to test the Army Reserve logistical support to an Army theater," Lt. Col. Patrick Cathcart, 310th operations plans officer, said. "This year, as in last, Prairie Warrior is being used to 'model' new concepts and organizations as well as train Army majors at C&GSC."

One of the new concepts being considered is a new type of organization that blends supply, maintenance, transportation, services, medical, engineer, finance and personnel management functions into one single headquarters within the Army theater called a Theater Support Command.

"Since most of the organizations that perform these functions above the corps level are in the Army Reserve and National Guard, Reserve Component soldiers from multiple organizations have been merged into a single multi-functional headquarters. The TSC is similar to the existing Theater Army Area Command structure, except that the TAACOM performs only supply, maintenance and services," Cathcart said.

In addition, the TSC provides for a unity of command over all combat service support assets in a single area and gives the commander a greater flexibility to implement what is, in the commander's opinion, the best course of action in support of tactical units.

C.A. Wheeler

Maj. Tom Crowder (left), assistant plans officer, and MSgt. Kenneth Buckholdt, operations sergeant, graphically display unit locations on the fictional continent of Lantica at Prairie Warrior 97.

Though no actual field combat training is exercised during Prairie Warrior, training involves the intense logistical support of theoretical Army corps organization in a European or other theater. This includes the receiving, processing and transporting of these units forward during the exercise.

"This is a simulation for a movement," Sgt. Maj. Steve Gebert, 310th operations sergeant major, said. "These are the kind of exercises that prepare us for deployment. We make all our mistakes here so that when we get to an [overseas] exercise or actual mobilization, it's old hat. It is planning and execution training or corps and division tactical operations at its finest."

Prior to the Army converting or reconfiguring TAACOMs to TSCs, several scenarios must be tested and many questions answered before the Army chief of staff makes a decision.

"Prairie Warrior 97 will help answer critical questions about the TSC concept, such as whether or not the TSC can effectively direct major subordinate units or actually enhance support operations," Gebert said. "Also, a key feature for this exercise is to refine lessons learned from previous Prairie Warrior exercises and refine the state-of-the-art a little farther.

"This exercise will further help to define the strong and weak points of the concept. For example, we have computer network problems — the Internet connecting correctly. I think once we lock down this process, it could make this a 'by the numbers' kind of exercise," he said.

The Prairie Warrior concept dates back to 1989, when the exercise was performed as a pilot course by C&GSC students. Then, the exercise was repeated annually since 1991 — each year with increased participation.

"I've been involved with five Prairie Warrior exercises," Gebert said. "I've seen the competence level growing substantially."

As a joint-service exercise, Prairie Warrior brings together the Army Reserve and various active duty counterparts such as soldiers from Army Materiel Command, Defense Logistics Agency and Military Traffic Management Command, and airmen, Marines and sailors. A primary goal of Prairie Warrior is to develop competent and confident staff officers capable of performing effective service on joint and corps operations.

Finally, much like America's high-tech corporations and NASA, a major portion of what happens here is based on using the information superhighway or the Internet.

"The Internet is absolutely critical to this exercise," Gebert said. "Years ago, we just didn't seem to have the technology or it was not reliable in a given situation. Today, we moved in and linked with everybody in just two days. It's really incredible how the information superhighway has helped. In terms of mission, we can deploy virtually anywhere in the world and within a few hours be totally linked worldwide via satellites."

So, like the rapidly growing computer technology and the Internet, the Army is moving at precedent-setting clockspeed. The Army of the future will be using cyberspace to help move the soldier through the theater of operation in record time.

(Kenitzer is deputy public affairs officer, 310th Theater Support Command.)

Sgt. Scotty Johnson

Spc. Wilson Brockington closely watches a load of clothes finishing the wash cycle.

511th Quartermaster Co. cleans up Roving Sands

By Spc. Stephanie Morton and Sgt. Scotty Johnson

Training in a dusty, hot field exercise such as Roving Sands 97 near Fort Bliss, Texas, is a sure formula for getting sweaty and dirty.

You can't leave for a hotel every night to take a hot shower and sleep in a comfortable bed. And you can't drop by the cleaners each morning to pick up a fresh uniform.

That's where laundry and bath support units come in. They provide shower and laundry services for soldiers in the field. And when nearly 11,000 U.S. soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines, and German, Dutch and Canadian troops took part in Roving Sands, there was a lot of laundry.

Roving Sands, in Oro Grande, N.M., is one of the world's largest joint air defense training exercises every year.

Ask the 611th Quartermaster Company, a Baltimore unit of the 310th Theater Support Command, Fort Belvoir, Va. It deployed to Roving Sands in overlapping platoon shifts from mid-April through early May.

Sgt. Scotty Johnson

PFC Norbert Holmes folds a towel.

At Oro Grande, 611th soldiers cleaned about 700 bundles of laundry per day. They washed and dried uniforms with same-day turnaround and helped the active Army's 16th Field Service Company, Fort Lee, Va., provide showers.

"All bundles brought in were pinned, sorted by type and color and carted to the washer," Spc Richard Hawkins, laundry and bath specialist, said. "The bundles were limited to 20 pieces unless there was a special situation."

The entire wash, spin, dry and fold cycle takes only about an hour, according to Spc. Bernard LaCroix, 611th system operator.

"We perform system operations manually. Your eyes must be on the machine," he said.

"Our goal was to work in as close to a real-world mission as possible," said Capt. Legrand Lanford, 611th commander. "This wasn't a training mission for us; it was a performing mission and my soldiers performed outstandingly."

(Morton works for the Fort Lee Public Affairs Office; Johnson is assigned to the 314th Press Camp, Birmingham.)

AMC & Reserve
A golden relationship

By Lt. Col. Don Dale

People and training have always been the critical components of our nation's Army. The active Army has fewer people and fewer dollars to support its missions, but the Army Materiel Command has aggressively integrated the Reserve Components into its real-world missions and incorporated the RC into its multi-functional and multi-echelon responsibilities.

In the AMC, more than 500 man-years of training were conducted last year, ensuring relevant training for Reserve soldiers and simultaneously accomplishing critical missions for the Army. Although AMC is more than 95 percent civilian, every year thousands of Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers train at AMC installations. From warehouses to production lines, from roadways to railways, Reservists test their combat service support skills, while completing real-world missions for AMC.

AMC's premier training event is Golden Cargo, a large-scale transportation support operation. It offers training from command level down to the individual level. The comprehensive packaging of training enables units to train from theater-level command down to unit level. A principal benefit is training at the intermediate command and control headquarters level which plans and executes the exercise. Few other training opportunities give this scope of planning for senior staff. (See story next page.)

Golden Cargo offers real-world training for non-divisional combat service support units. It also offers individual military occupational specialty training, to include shipping and receiving, inventory, storage planning, transportation, movement control, documentation, life support operations, safety, hazardous materials handling and leadership.

The success of Golden Cargo led to the planning of another training exercise in FY 98 for engineer units to be called Golden Kastle. The primary training opportunities would include road and rail repair at designated AMC installations. The overall exercise will involve units from the Army Reserve and National Guard.

AMC photo

The 226th Transportation Company builds a bridge.

Current planning involves engineer, rail, maintenance, military police and medical units, all ranging from echelons above corps to the detachment level. By incorporating these levels, units learn how to deal with changes in their command structure as some units are attached to other units at various levels. Golden Kastle is expected to become an annual exercise.

USARC has identified the 926th Engineer Group in Montgomery, Ala., as the possible USARC Action Agent for Golden Cargo 98. The agent formed a site survey team and visited White Sands Missile Range, McAllester Army Ammunition Plant and several other potential sites earlier this year. The agent determined the scope of work at each installation for the engineers while

preparing a doctrinally aligned troop list for approval by USARC. This troop list will be manned by units from the Army Reserve and National Guard.

McAllester Army Ammunition Plant was chosen as the initial Golden Kastle exercise for FY 98. The 372nd Engineer Group will have three combat heavy engineer battalions assigned to them for Golden Kastle. The exercise will be held over a six-week period with each battalion covering a two-week segment of the exercise. The group's horizontal mission will be to repair a 10-mile stretch of road. This will include replacing the subgrade, culverts and drainage, and railroad crossings. Units will also do soil stabilization, cut and fill operations, resurfacing and gravel haul operations.

Their vertical mission will include cement repair of the wing and blast walls of the magazine bunkers, bridge repair, construction of new x-sites (outside munition storage), roofing, new drywalls and electrical and plumbing work.

In addition to major exercises designed to give a full range of training, AMC supports RC individual and team enhancement and sustainment training on modern equipment. RC members can maintain critical soldier skills by performing tasks and operating or repairing equipment at AMC installations.

Examples include Army Reserve rail maintenance units at Crane Army Depot who trained on weekends and during annual training performing maintenance on the installation's railroad track. They inspected the track, regauged some track, replaced railroad ties and track, graded ballast around the track and tamped ballast around the ties, bringing the track to grade. Switches were welded and repaired.

The 827th Quartermaster Company conducted their weekend drills at McAllester to provide MOS qualification and sustainment training for their soldiers. They received forklift operator training, automated stock control training, packaging and preservation training in the dunnage mill. During the course of this training, bench stocks were inventoried and automated.

Units that are transitioning to new equipment receive valuable hands-on training from the highly skilled and experienced AMC work force. For example, the Hi-Tech Regional Training Site-Maintenance at Tobyhanna Army Depot continues to support RC training on communication and electronics equipment, training otherwise available only to RC soldiers during initial skills training. Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas also provided Nuclear, Biological and Chemical officer/NCO courses to the RC.

Overseas Deployment Training is offered at the AMC Army War Reserve sites in Europe and Korea. AMC's assumption of the Army War Reserve mission creates significant opportunities for training on preparation and storage of equipment and supplies for the AWR. The RC has agreed to provide seven companies to support the fiscal year 1997 missions — five to Europe and two to Korea.

AMC's approach to working closely with the RC has yielded tremendous benefits for the soldiers and their units and enhanced readiness for the Total Army. Golden Cargo and Golden Kastle represent the synergy which can be achieved.

(Dale is assigned to AMC.)

Golden Cargo

Premier training event for RC

About 3,200 soldiers from 85 units drawn from 26 states tested the Army's ability to supply its troops in time of war.

The test, part of a national military exercise called Golden Cargo 97, ran May and June.

Headquarters for the exercise was 3rd Corps Support Command, an Army Reserve unit from Des Moines, Iowa. The command was stationed at Seneca Army Depot in New York during the exercise.

Golden Cargo 97 extended from California to New York. It involved the movement of war stocks between paired facilities in three areas of operation, Lt. Col. Bob Krause said. He is an Army Reserve spokesperson for the 19th Theater Army Area Command, an Army Reserve headquarters in Des Moines, which had overall responsibility for Golden Cargo 97.

The purpose of Golden Cargo is to train soldiers and leaders in the operation of theater-level logistics that would be required during a major military conflict. Golden Cargo 97 is nationally unique in that it is the only U.S. logistics training exercise large enough to offer actual hands-on operational logistics all the way up to theater level, Krause said.

During the exercise, about 46,000 tons of war stocks were loaded, moved from site to site, unloaded and reconfigured for safe storage. In the central United States, operations were between Savannah (Ill.) Army Depot Activity and McAlester (Okla.) Army Ammunition Plant.

In the western United States, operations centered around Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, Calif., and Hawthorne (Nev.) Army Depot. Eastern operations involved Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, N.Y., and Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pa.

Transport of war stocks was by rail, air and truck to facilitate realistic training in each mode. At each operation site, soldiers received experience in proper methods for loading, securing, arranging, transporting and downloading hazardous cargo.

To ensure complete safety, soldiers had to pass a comprehensive test on stowage and transport of hazardous cargo prior to participating in the exercise. Training was in a tactical posture in order to train on security in battlefield conditions and to ensure security during the exercise.

One feature of Golden Cargo 97 was the use of the Defense Transportation Tracking System, a global positioning system able to give nearly instant location checks.

"This is valuable in wartime because the Army needs to be able to shift the flow of supplies instantly if the flow of battle changes," Krause said. "In peacetime, it also give us anti-terrorist protection."

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Gus Espinosa examines a young patient.

Bringing medical care to people of Paraguay

Story and photos by Sgt. Brian Thomas

The American soldiers didn't bring any magic or perform any miracles. The woman in the wheelchair did not walk home.

But the only disappointment to be seen was on the faces of the doctors — they wished they could do more. For the patients, the attention and care they received was purely magical and miraculous — these Americans really wanted to help them.

For the 28 Army Reservists of the 801st Combat Support Hospital from Fort Sheridan, Ill., the Medical Readiness Training Exercise they conducted in Horqueta, Paraguay, late last summer was both an uplifting and disappointing experience. They did so much, but wanted to do so much more.

Supported by U.S. Army South's Field Medical Training Site and the 154th Signal Battalion, the Army Reserve doctors and dentists saw an average of 500 people a day for the nine treatment days. Veterinary personnel were vaccinating close to 100 animals a day.

At the Horqueta school compound, the site of the medical and dental exams and treatments, Paraguayan army trucks brought in people from the surrounding countryside every day. From there, the people lined up to see either a doctor or dentist, and after being examined and treated, were given a class on preventive medicine and hygiene.

"Basically we do general medicine and try to solve the immediate problems — this is the acute situation, with certain limitations," Lt. Col. (Dr.) Gus Espinosa, chief physician for the MEDRETE, said. "The most difficult thing is your frustration as a physician. You can diagnose many things and you're able to treat many things, but you are limited in resources and time."

The doctors are limited by time, equipment and the intent of the MEDRETE mission, which is to train the Reservists in deployment.

"This provides us with enormous readiness training," Lt. Col. Gary Boswell, MEDRETE commander, said. "Our folks here are learning to deal with providing medical care under austere conditions — the same kind of conditions that they would have in a field environment with a limited supply.

"Here, we have the chance for them to really see what they can do, how they can do it, how to organize themselves and how to make the most of the facilities that we have, because you never know where you're going to wind up."

The experience of deploying for a MEDRETE is the same as if the unit was being deployed for a real contingency, MSgt. Lee Gilby, former NCO of the Field Medical Training Site, said. Wills, powers of attorney, family plans and all the other things that have to be done to ensure that matters at home are taken care of must be done for the Reservists' annual training mission just as in wartime.

"The real-life experience with patients only heightens the Reservists' readiness," Gilby said.

"They must learn that preparation and sanitation are critical," he said. "They learn to do medical care with very limited supplies. The doctors learn they can't have the finest quality medications and finest instruments, which at first is a problem for them because they're used to having the best of everything and the best sterile conditions.

"Here, the floors are dirty. You can sweep them out and five minutes later the dust blows back in. They have to learn to use clean techniques instead of sterile techniques. They realize pretty soon you can still save people's lives without having the best of everything. You learn to appreciate the small things, and you learn that you can get by with a lot less than you thought you could."

In the Horqueta compound, the dynamics of this MEDRETE were eye-opening. Army Reservists worked side-by-side with doctors and dentists from the

(Left to right) Spc. Kisha Anderson, Spc. Brian Mascal and Col. Alan Brightman vaccinate a pig.

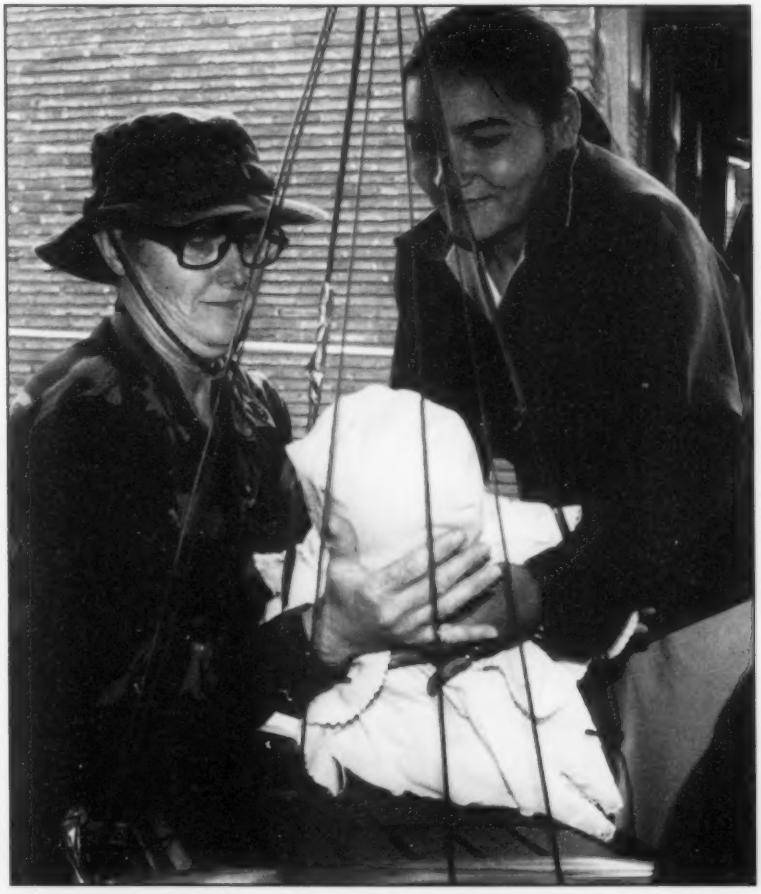
Paraguayan army. Close by each Reserve doctor was a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer brought in to bridge the communication gap among English, Spanish and the local language of Guarani. Local high school and college students also came to help, brought in by local mayor Nestor Cabanas Bazan, a strong advocate of the U.S. military's presence in his area.

"It's been very well received," he said. "The people are leaving very grateful, and with a different image of the United States."

Peace Corps volunteer Kevin Gaskin, one of the nine who took part in the exercise, was glad to see the U.S. Army help people similar to the ones he works with near Concepcion, Paraguay.

"I've never seen anything like this before," he said. "There's not too much help that the Paraguayan government gives them, so if someone doesn't come in and do this, it's not going to happen. The Reservists are good people; they know what they're doing and they're doing good work."

The routine had the 801st soldiers up before dawn, back to the Paraguayan army base they called home after dark, and then repeating the routine the next day. The grim routine did not dim the spirits, however, of the veteran Reservists, many of whom have been on several MEDRETEs.



"I love this! This is why I stay in the Reserve," SFC Park Brewer said. He's an animal technician from the 320th Medical Detachment in Illinois, who was attached to the 801st to do veterinary work. "It's fun, it's exciting and it's completely different from my normal work, so I really enjoy it."

Brewer, a plumber in Chicago, was on his eighth MEDRETE, having already conducted missions throughout Central and South America. While he treated animals instead of humans, he said his piece of the mission was just as valuable to the Paraguayan people, who use cattle and horses as a key mode of transportation.

"The people rely on their animals; that is their livelihood," Brewer said. "When you help the animals you're really helping the whole family, and the more you do for the animals, the more you're doing for them — it builds good will."

While Brewer and the veterinary staff, led by Col. Allen Brightman, commander of the 320th, roved around Horqueta providing a mobile service to the animals, the doctors and dentists at the school faced a steady stream of patients of all ages.

In the dentists' office, Capt. (Dr.) John Hall met many patients who were seeing a dentist for the first time. His job was a grim one — pulling tooth after tooth.

"Time and again, I've been told that they have no access to dentistry, even for the simple procedures," Hall said. "So the service we're providing is of primary importance to them."

Providing those uncommon services and giving the Paraguayan people a positive impression of the United States made the mission a successful trip and a profitable tool.

"I think these services are a very valuable source for promoting both governmental and people-to-people relations," Boswell said. "We build a lot of good will when we do this. The people are very happy to see us."

Spc. Kisha Anderson of the 801st spoke for both the Reservists and the patients: "I just wish we could stay longer and do more."

(Thomas is assigned to the USARSO Public Affairs Office, Central America.)

(Top photo) Spc. Brian Mascal measures vaccine into a syringe. (Left) SFC Lou Shuman weighs an infant on an improvised scale.

They call her 'Doctora'

SSgt. Juanita Alvarez-Lopez prescribes medication for a Panamanian mother to take back home for her feverish daughter.

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Steve Lai

CERRO CAMA, Panama — The Panamanian children call her "Doctora." Although Army Reserve SSgt. Juanita Alvarez-Lopez isn't an M.D., the stethoscope around her neck identifies her as a healer to the rural Panamanians here.

Alvarez-Lopez recently ventured to rural Panama to perform two weeks of annual training as a medical specialist as part of New Horizons-Panama.

"Let me show you the reason I'm here," she said.

She walked to a nearby small cinder block and stucco home. Inside was an elderly gentleman whose family members said he complained about the tender condition of his foot for the last 30 years. He could no longer hide its deteriorating condition any longer. The foot looked like an over-ripe melon, open and swollen from infection.

Alvarez-Lopez determined that, at 84 years of age, immediate medical attention for him might mean the difference between life and death.

With only limited means available for her to help the increasing number of villagers coming to her for medical attention, she was able to provide clean bandages and sound advice.

Making do with less is something that Alvarez-Lopez had been used to over the past 24 years of her career as a citizen-soldier. She serves with the Reserve's 865th Engineer Battalion based in Rutland, Vt. The engineers were also participating in New Horizons-Panama, among some 2,600 troops deploying to this Central American country to build or repair 12 schools and medical clinics throughout rural Panama.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Miami, Alvarez-Lopez makes her home in Rochester, N.Y., where she is a self-employed realtor. She is also a former law enforcement officer and an emergency medical team technician. Alvarez-

See 'Doctora' next page

'Doctora'

From previous page

Lopez is also extremely involved in Rochester's community activities where she serves as director of a health clinic.

Although a native Puerto Rican, Alvarez-Lopez bears a distinctive look that complements her equally distinctive persona. She is widely known in her neighborhood as the only Puerto Rican of mixed African ancestry with a lightly tinted coiffure.

In Rochester "they call me 'La Negrita Rubia,'" Alvarez-Lopez said, which she explained in Spanish affectionately means "the dark-skinned lady with the blond hair."

As she spoke, one of the engineers asked her to translate something a Panamanian cement truck driver was saying. She took a moment to comply.

As that scenario repeated itself over and over again with each new face that walked up to her, it was clear that "La Doctora" was the sole means of communication between the local residents and the Army Reserve project engineers.

Much more than a translator, Alvarez-Lopez communicates with sensitivity and attention, what mere words alone do not express. She said the parallel between her work with the people of her Rochester neighborhood and the Panamanian villagers was uncanny.

"My heart goes out to each and every one of the people here," she added. "I feel privileged because I am helping these people in the same way I do when I am at home."

Her annual training in Panama was her first chance to see the world courtesy of Uncle Sam.

"This deployment has been so exciting," Alvarez-Lopez said. "The 'barrio' is the 'barrio.' It makes no difference if it's in Panama or New York," she said. "I'm grateful for the chance to serve these people."

Different but identical is one way to describe her role as ambassador, caregiver and benefactor. Although this deployment to Central America came near the end of her military career, the people of Panama will live in her heart forever, she said.

(Lai is a member of the 117th Public Affairs Team, Hawaii Army National Guard.)

New Horizons-Panama

463rd Engineer Battalion builds school addition

Story and photo by SSgt. Amy Gunnerson

LA CHORRERA, Panama — U.S. Army Reserve engineers from Bellaire, Ohio, and Wheeling, W.Va., believe in neighbors helping neighbors — even if that means traveling to the Central American tropics of Panama.

More than 80 members of the Headquarters Support Company, 463rd Engineer Battalion, recently deployed to the community of Quebrada Grande, Panama, to build a much-needed addition to a two-room elementary schoolhouse. The effort is part of New Horizons-Panama, a military training, humanitarian and civic action exercise. During the exercise, about 2,600 engineers and other military personnel will build or repair 12 schools and medical clinics.

The engineers were the first of four groups of Reserve soldiers from Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania constructing the school and improving the surrounding dirt road in Quebrada Grande.

Sgt. Lori Cheplic, a concrete and asphalt engineer, measures the depth and level of a footing.

Being first on the ground means more than just finishing the school's initial construction. Upon arrival, they had to make the site livable, which required setting up tents, field showers and a field kitchen while shaking off jet lag and adjusting to searing tropical heat. The extra work meant rising before dawn and putting in some long hours.

"That's why we have these," said company commander Capt. Michael Meintel, of Shadyside, Ohio, pointing to citizen-soldiers setting up flood light sets around the site. "We keep working into the night when we have to."

The engineers' help is both needed and appreciated in Panama.

Children walk from 15 minutes to an hour to attend Quebrada Grande school. Despite the shortage of money for school supplies, students proudly display their backpacks and neatly pressed uniforms.

First- and second-grade teacher Argelis Bordett asked her charges if they would like to help the engineers. A sea of eager little hands shot up to volunteer. Bordett is also the acting director of the school. She said they have long needed a lunchroom and bathroom since 1994 but were never able to get the funding.

"It is a wonderful thing," she said of the new addition, despite the struggle to keep the younger ones focused on their lessons with all the curious construction going on outside.

With the help of a translator, Meintel asked Bordett if he could have his picture taken with the children to show the junior high school football players he coaches in Shadyside.

"It's about giving something back instead of just always taking. That's what I try to teach them (players) back home," Meintel said. As a civilian, he supervises a dormitory of inmates for the Department of Corrections in Shadyside.

(Gunnerson is a member of the 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Maryland Army National Guard.)

Fixing teeth is all smiles for two Illinois Reservists

Story and photo by Spc. George Roache

FORT CLAYTON, Panama — Fixing teeth make two Fort Sheridan, Ill.-based U.S. Army Reserve citizen-soldiers all smiles. They recently performed their two-week annual training in Panama.

Working across from each other over a patient is where Dr. (Col.) William Bleecker and SSgt. Raymond Reyna, dental technician, would rather be. It's a spot they don't see much during stateside weekend drills and annual training tours.

So when the hospital dental clinic here sent out a call to help fill staff positions left unmanned by the drawdown of forces, these two members of the 801st Combat Support Hospital from the Sheridan Reserve Center were quick to sign up. The drawdown is a result of the gradual implementation of the Panama Canal Treaty.

"They had an oversupply of patients, an undersupply of dentists, and asked for volunteers," Bleecker, a general dentist from Downers Grove, Ill., said. "We hope we're performing a needed service."

Identifiable by their names scrawled in pen on masking tape plastered to the blue smocks they wear over their battle dress uniform pants, Bleecker and Reyna and other Reserve dental teams are becoming increasingly important to the U.S. Dental Activity in Panama.

As the U.S. Army continues the drawdown process for the eventual handover of the U.S. military bases and canal to Panama, active duty dental staffers are leaving without being replaced. Plans call for the Air Force to take over operating the facility in October, interim to its complete shutdown in 1999.

But service members and their families still get toothaches, want their teeth cleaned or need emergency care. Staff dentists and hygienists each see an average of seven patients a day.

Reservists in numerous occupational specialties routinely help active duty soldiers by picking up their workload and allowing them to keep up with their own training, U.S. Army SFC Joan Lancaster, said. This year, six Reservists — three dentists and three hygienists — have been coming every two weeks.

"They are more consistent now that we're requesting them," Lancaster said. "We're begging them to come down..."

Coming to Panama gave Bleecker what he'd missed during his annual training tours since 1993 — interaction with patients. That year his unit changed from being a general hospital to a combat support hospital and stopped performing dental work in various parts of the United States. Instead, they started going to the field to practice setting up and taking down field hospitals.

"The ATs became combat oriented and only dealt with patient care theoretically," Bleecker said, whose wisecracking, good-humored chair-side style seems ideal for making people relax. "That's why we became dentists — to help people and serve patient needs. Panama is a great opportunity to practice my profession in a military setting."

Reyna was an Army dental hygienist from 1962 to 1965. He left the Army but joined the Reserve in 1983, learning to be a dental technician through on-the-job training. He sells cars in Chicago Heights, Ill., for a living and drives the 50 miles from his home in Hobart, Ind., to drill at Fort Sheridan.

Once on post, he conducts physical exams of people's mouths and charts missing teeth and restorations, but does not work on patients. In Panama, he has the opportunity to disinfect an area, sterilize instruments, usher in a patient, hand the dentist an explorer or fill a carrier with amalgam used for filling teeth.

"Here I'm actually doing operative work," Reyna said. "This helps me to learn the hospital itself."

Bleecker said Panama reminded him of Puerto Rico, where his wife was born, and wished his unit could conduct training in Panama more often. He could see nothing but benefits from the arrangement.

"This is as good an assignment as you'll likely get in the Reserve," Bleecker said. "You get to meet the people of a different culture and get to work on patients. We're getting paid to do the things we enjoy doing in a place we'd never get to do it as a civilian."

(Roache is assigned to the 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Maryland Army National Guard.)

SSgt. Raymond Reyna (left) assists Dr. (Col.) William Bleecker perform dental work on a patient.

USAR photo

Engineers operate a bulldozer (foreground) and a scraper as they grade a road.

Engineers build 38-km roadway

By Lt. Col. Roberto Canas and Sgt. Maj. Bruce Sibbald

FORT BLISS, Texas — "Essayons" — the engineer motto translated means "Let Us Try," and try they did.

In fact, the engineers did more than try, they excelled and completed the mission in record time.

Under the direction of the 416th Engineer Command, Chicago, and the 240th Engineer Group, Waterville, Maine, four construction engineer units built 38 kilometers of roadway to standard in less than 60 days.

The exercise, dubbed Roving Sands Phase I, was one that once again proved the benefits of the one-Army concept. The 416th (Army Reserve) had command and control of the 240th (Maine National Guard), the Army Reserve's 844th Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Battalion and 285th Engineer Company, and the active Army's 63rd Engineer Company.

The Reserve and National Guard units, with the exception of the 416th ENCOM, rotated through McGregor Range here for their two weeks of annual traning. The 416th Engineer Cmd. and the 63rd Engineer Co. participated for the duration of the exercise, Jan. 15 through March 15.

Together this force constructed a road necessary for the success of Roving Sands 97, a joint air defense exercise in April. The new road facilitated access to the Otero Mesa and reduced the round trip travel time by at least five hours, greatly reducing the cost of the exercise.

Under the guidance of the 416th Engineering Operations Center, the road was built in four phases as the engineer units rotated through in sequence. An estimated 850,000 cubic yards of earth were moved by more than 650 engineer troops.

The road mission included upgrade of existing sections and construction of a new section rising through the mountains to the Otero Mesa. Construction involved the installation of 11 low-water crossings and three culverts.

Throughout the construction process, water was the most critical commodity. Water is critical for compaction. Water distributors were averaging two hours for their round trip from the water source at McGregor Range.

The engineer task force also supported Roving Sands 97 with several vertical construction missions. The missions included plumbing, carpentry and electrical work for some 25 projects at Logan Heights and Biggs Army Airfield.

The project, financed by Forces Command as a training mission, took well over 40,000 man hours. The project was built with minimal time-lost incidences as conscientious soldiers kept safety in mind at all time.

"Training with a purpose, where troops can see great accomplishments, instills pride and motivation which was reflected in the rapid completion of the road," MSgt. Robert Thomas, 416th project NCOIC, said. "Individuals leave feeling good about themselves, their unit and the United States Army."

(Canas and Sibbald are assigned to the 416th Engineer Command.)

New and improved PFU

By Capt. Tod Peterson

Physical fitness training is a required daily event in the physical development of the individual soldier. Their missions span all over the world, involve various terrain and climates, demand 24-hour performance expectations and use a variety of technology which is applied during low to medium intensity conflicts.

Soldiers need a Physical Fitness Uniform that can be worn in different climates, during various physical training events and in all geographical regions. Physical Training is usually held during predawn to dusk light conditions under the many influences of the weather and climate.

Taking all of these factors into consideration, the current Army PFU does not meet these requirements. It is not for all seasons nor is it designed for the various PT activities that soldiers perform (i.e., running, biking, swimming, walking, organized athletics and battle-focused PT).

The existing Army PFU has many shortcomings. The fabric of the current PFU does not have the technological advantage of today's high performance fabrics and requires excessive drying time. These fabrics also retain stains, perspiration and odors. Poor durability of the fabric does not allow for the retention of its original silhouette.

The Army requires some type of reflective safety feature (reflective vests or belts) to be worn during PT activities. The current PFU does not have a reflective safety feature built into the uniform.

The shorts material and inner liner retain bacteria from perspiration resulting in mildew and odors. The pocket in the shorts is not designed to hold a required military ID card.

The Improved Physical Fitness Uniform will consist of an outer garment top and bottom, shorts, short/long sleeve shirts. The cost of the new uniform will not be cost prohibitive and should be comparable to the current issue. The U.S. Army Institute for Environmental Research is currently testing different material, fabrics and styles to decide what will best fit the military needs for an IPFU.

There are a number of characteristics the IPFU must have. The design and fabric characteristics must provide a wide range of seasonal environmental coverage with state-of-the-art technology and materials.

It should provide a multi-functional range of motion design for various physical activities. The IPFU must be lightweight, quick drying and reduce the retention of body odors after laundering. It should be able to wick moisture away from the skin, yet resist wind and precipitation.

The design must be durable enough for most rigorous and aggressive activities. The preferred color is gray and/or black. It will have state-of-the-art reflective abilities to ensure safe, visible physical training in daylight, dawn and dusk. A 100 percent silhouette image must be visible.

Variations of the IPFU are currently being tested, with fielding expected within the next few years.

(Peterson is chief, Reserve Component Division, Army Physical Fitness School, Fort Benning, Ga.)

USAR photo

USAR photo

SFC Kevin Murphy wears one of the variatons of the IPFU (left) and warmup.

'British'

From page 10

took the beach soon ended, and the soldiers were in control and securing the perimeter in no time. The mission really tested our skills as mariners. Our soldiers deployed the first wave of infantry onto the beach at day break as scheduled and the British soldiers took it from there as our boats quickly pulled out."

"This type of training happens only every one-and-a-half years for the British Army battalion as a whole, so they have to make the most of it," Walters said.

"Having our entire battalion training at once and actually firing, going through the drills together and the whole works, is rare. It also requires a lot of hard training and coordination," he said.

As a member of the antitank missile platoon, Walters' mission was to provide protection for the assaulting platoons that landed before him. It took two men to carry the missile. One carried the tripod and the other, the barrel with one or two missiles, depending on his strength and how fast he had to move. Each man carried about 100 pounds, a considerable amount, especially for soldiers who weigh only about 150 pounds.

Walters said this mission was actually easier than working for the queen.

"At the palace, you have to spend so many hours shining your boots and looking sharp. It's very stressful. You have to burn your boots, melt the wax, use bee's wax to make them look like glass and make sure nothing scuffs them up. It's like being ready for inspection 24 hours a day. I guess it's okay, but for you it would be like pulling duty guarding the White House or something. It's an honor, but it can be pretty dull. Sometimes the queen will ask us how the sentries are doing but usually it's pretty uneventful," he said.

(Rowton is assigned to the 70th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office, Fort Lawton, Wash.)

The PLDC graduating class, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon.

Soldiers learn to be their best

By Spc. Ron Sukenick

If you want to grow, and you truly want to feel the excitement and professionalism that being an NCO is all about, then attending Primary Leadership Development Course is a must.

Recently I attended PLDC at the NCO Reserve Academy at Fort Lewis, Wash., and what an experience it was. Fifteen days of intense, non-stop, fast-paced, intentional stress and leadership training that makes me proud of what an NCO is all about.

I read and studied a total of 27 TMs, ARs, ARTEPs, etc. I learned about everything from drill and ceremony to map reading to family support to soldier team development and everything in between. Doing these things prepared me for the opportunity to lead and be led during my career as a Reserve soldier.

I also was involved in a 38-hour non-stop field training exercise of constant small unit tactics, search and destroy missions. The help of the MILES laser training system made it as close to real battle fighting as you can get.

I appreciate the resources that the Army Reserve has put together to support me in my training and experience and becoming battle focused. And I also appreciate the professional staff, small group leaders, instructors and academy leadership in helping the students to be the very best that we can be.

A significant accomplishment was that 17 soldiers started the course and 17 finished the course, clearly a show of team cohesiveness and the spirit of working together.

(Sukenick is assigned to the 417th Quartermaster Company, Camp Atterbury, Ind.)

People

OCAR officer 'strikes'

An Army major working for the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, took the women's armed services bowling title, something that has alluded her for the past two years.

Maj. Deb Sinek, personnel staff officer in the Personnel Policy Branch, Personnel Division, OCAR, Washington, D.C., captured the individual overall title at the Armed Forces Bowling Championships held in April at McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Sinek posted a 221.04 average over four days in claiming the women's combined title. She totaled 5,305 pins over four events — team, doubles, mixed doubles and singles. She bested the second-place overall winner by 365 pins.

Besides the overall title, Sinek captured the one-day singles event with a 220.67 average. She also teamed up with Army CWO3 Elaine Riggs, a National Guard Active Guard Reserve soldier from Columbus, Ohio, to win the women's doubles title. The pair combined for 2,522 pins (210.2 average).

Sinek has been bowling since she was a kid. However, she had to drop the sport for about five years when she came into the Army because she didn't have time. Moving from post to post with the Army, Sinek found that bowling was something she could easily get involved with right away.

She likes the game because it helps release pent-up energy. Plus, "there are lots of nice people to bowl with," she said.

To prepare for the rigorous competition — 24 games in six days — she practiced at the Fort Meade, Md., bowling center and bowled in leagues with her fiancé, now her husband. She also competed in tournaments to help develop the mettle needed during the stress of competition.

This is the fourth year Sinek has participated in the armed services championships. To become a member of the team, Sinek submitted an application that highlighted her bowling experience and statistics. She then competed in the Army trials, again bowling 24 games over six days. The top six men and women of all ranks from the active component or AGR program made the Army team.

Sinek is quick to state that she doesn't have aspirations to be a professional bowler.

"I'm going to continue as I am and have fun," she said with a smile. "I really enjoy being on the Army team, representing the Army. I'm proud to be in the Army."

First woman DCG

The first woman ever selected for a Regional Support Command deputy commander position was announced recently.

Col. Karol Kennedy will serve as

Deputy Commander of the 99th RSC, Oakdale, Pa. Prior to assuming her new duties she was the commander of the 6025th Garrison Support Unit, St. Louis, considered a group/brigade-level command position.

A 26-year veteran of military service, Kennedy began her career as an enlisted soldier in February 1963. Two years later she received her commission through Officers Candidate School. Since then, she has served in a variety of operational, staff and command assignments in the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve before assuming her current position.

Kennedy's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with one OLC, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with three OLCs, National Defense Service Medal with service star and Armed Forces Reserve Medal with bronze hourglass device.

Retention NCO of Year

SFC June Montgomery won the 1996 Secretary of the Army United States Army Reserve Retention NCO of the Year Award. She received the award in a ceremony at the Pentagon in May.

Montgomery competed with 10 other outstanding Retention NCOs for the award. Her selection was based on her knowledge and performance in retaining soldiers. Other selection criteria included attitude, enthusiasm, appearance, soldier skills and the ability to express herself orally.

Prior to winning the award, Montgomery competed against three other NCOs for honors as Retention NCO of the Year for the 81st Regional Support Command, Birmingham. The selection criteria was the same as for the Secretary of the Army competition.

Montgomery is assigned to Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Group, Fort Jackson, S.C. She is the Senior Retention NCO training other Retention NCOs to assist soldiers in retention, reenlistment and readiness.

A resident of North Carolina, Montgomery is employed by that state's Department of Corrections, Division of Prisons, Facility Services, Telecommunications Section, in Raleigh, N.C. She and her husband Bobby have a son, Charles, and daughter, Michele.

Reservist debuts in Soldier Show

She enters from stage left, white flood lights reflecting off her sequined costume.

Reminiscent of the female superstar whose song she's performing, she grabs the audience's attention and holds it for the entire rendition of Tina Turner's "Be Good to Me."

She's SFC Sharon Abrams, an Active Guard Reserve soldier and a cast member of the 1997 U.S. Army Soldier Show. She is assigned to the 21st Theater Army Area Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany, as a personnel administrator.

Abrams' talent is unmistakeable, her stage presence riveting and her enthusiasm contagious. Her voice has been described as "sexy and sensuous."

The trail to the Soldiers Show stage started last year. An avid karaoke fan, Abrams competed regularly in karaoke contests throughout Europe. After winning a weekly contest dubbed the Karaoke Challenge at the Armstrong Club in Kaiserslautern, Abrams was eligible for the monthly contest at Coleman Club in Mannheim, Germany. There, against 10 contestants, she blew away the other performers to take first place and $1,000.

This victory made her eligible to compete in the Ultimate Karaoke Challenge held at the Woodland Club in Giessen, Germany. There, against 33 contestants, Abrams again took top honors and the $2,000 prize money.

She next entered the 1996 Countdown to Stardom hosted by the Ramstein Community Center at the Ramstein Air Base, taking third place and $100. Even though she didn't take first place, she went on to become a contestant for the annual karaoke contest at Ramstein's Enlisted Club. There she took first place and $50. Now qualified for the final show, she won first place and $1,500.

Capt. Cheryl Phillips

SFC Sharon Abrams performs "Be Good to Me."

One of the judges in the Countdown to Stardom contest coaxed her to audition for the Soldier Show. The cast was chosen early this year, with Abrams among them. She arrived in the states from Germany at the end of March to begin six weeks of intensive rehearsals.

Abrams began singing as a little girl. She sings in her church choir and had the chance to sing with one of the top gospel singers, Shirley Caeser.

Although preparing for the Soldier Show is a lot of work, Abrams wouldn't trade the experience. She's looking forward to gaining new friendships with the rest of cast.

Despite the long hours, it's obvious she enjoys singing and has a lot of fun doing it. "I love to sing," she said breathlessly after a rehearsal. "I love to see the smiles on folks' faces when I sing."

She saw the smiles on the faces of her family who were in the audience for opening night in mid-May at Fort Belvoir, Va.

'We Shall be Free'

This year's 80-minute Soldier Show "We Shall be Free" is built around the theme of freedom and a promise that the United States Army is performing its mission at home and abroad in the hopes all mankind will enjoy freedom.

The show is targeted to the 18-24-year-old audience, but appeals to all ages. The program features vocal solos, duets and quartets, high-energy song and dance production numbers, and music from every genre: pop, rhythm and blues, country, gospel, Broadway, oldies, rap, current dance hits and patriotic tunes. It's wholesome, fun entertainment for the whole family.

Over the six-month tour, the cast will perform 98 shows at 44 sites in the United States (21 states), a show in Toronto, Canada, and more than a dozen performances for troops in Korea, Okinawa and Japan.

In the cast are 17 active-duty soldiers and one Active Guard Reserve soldier. Five technicians and five drivers support the cast. One of the cast members is an officer. The rest run the gamut from private first class to sergeant first class.

Stage, sound and light equipment is state of the art, equivalent to large commercial concert tour productions. The cast and crew handle 30,000 pounds of equipment including stage trusses, 125 stage lights and four miles of cable. The stage takes six hours to set up and 2-1/2 hours to break down and reload on the truck after the show.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is an Army morale, welfare and recreation program produced by the entertainment division of the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center. The show perpetuates the tradition of "soldiers entertaining soldiers," which dates back to World War I with Sgt. Irving Berlin.

USAR Recruiter of Year

An Active Guard Reserve recruiter emerged as "the best of the best" after being named U.S. Army Reserve Recruiter of the Year for U.S. Army Recruiting Command for Fiscal Year 1996.

SSgt. Joseph Malcolm was recognized for his outstanding contributions during an awards ceremony at the Pentagon in May.

A journalist (46Q) by trade, Malcolm enlisted in the Army in 1985. He worked on several military publications and was selected as the Forces Command Journalist of the Year in 1989.

He transitioned into the Reserve in 1990 and graduated from Recruiting School in August 1991. He has been a consistent competitor for top recruiting honors ever since, earning his Recruiter Ring in November 1994 after 37 months as a Reserve recruiter. He was the Fiscal Year 1996 top producer in two recruiting categories in the Nashville Battalion.

And the secret to his success? "Taking care of my applicants," Malcolm said without hesitation. "I get 40 percent of my contracts through referrals. You can't get that by not caring."

Malcolm also recommends staying in the market of youth who want to go to college. "If I treat prospective applicants very well, even if I don't get that contract, the chances are excellent that that applicant will know someone. I want all my prospects and applicants to be able to say, 'Hey, that Sergeant Malcolm really took care of me!'"

Sgt. Maj. Larry Price, Nashville Battalion, described Malcolm as "an invaluable asset." Based on Malcolm's successes, he has been selected to perform the critical mission of technical warrant officer recruiter. "He has led all Reserve recruiters in every measurable category," Price said. "Staff Sergeant Malcolm has proven that he is the best in this battalion."

Malcolm said he always wanted to be the best recruiter in the Army Reserve, and that his wife Sharon and children (Nicole, 5, and Tyler, 2) have supported him in all his efforts.

The runner-up for Reserve Recruiter of the Year is SSgt. Terry Winn from the Mesquite (Texas) Recruiting Station, Dallas Battalion.

5th USAR AGR NCO of Year

SSgt. Terry Wong, assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve NCO Academy at Fort Lewis, Wash., was named 5th U.S. Army Reserve Components Active Guard Reserve NCO of the Year in a ceremony in New Orleans in April.

No particular area of the competition proved especially difficult for Wong.

"All areas were my strong points from my experience teaching PLDC (Primary Leadership Development Course) and with 11B as my MOS," Wong said.

"He (Wong) knows the material because he uses it every day by mentoring soldiers," said CSM George Talbott, 6th Brigade, 104th Division, Vancouver, Wash. "He not only knows the material, he lives it on a day-to-day basis."

More than a dozen NCOs within the 21-state 5th Army region competed for the honors. One of the soldiers from the 70th Regional Support Command, Fort Lawton, Wash., was a former student of the first PLDC Wong taught at Fort Lewis.

All winners received the Meritorious Service Medal, a plaque and the Command Sergeant Major Coin from CSM Steven Weiss of 5th Army.

Wong was also awarded the general's coin, a $500 savings bond and a new Class A uniform from 5th Army.

Wong said he was definitely glad when he learned he was selected to go before the board. "I was so confident after that, I would have been upset if I didn't win," he said.

"He (Wong) was very confident and remained calm when asked questions," Talbott said. "He didn't appear to be nervous. He took charge and was very self-assured."

Wong was appreciative of Talbott's help and support. "He (Talbott) put me at ease and answered my questions, like how many members were on the board. I'm also very thankful for all the help I received from Staff Sergeant Carmela Smart."

Wong, who has been a Reservist for 10 years and in the AGR program for one, enjoys reading military history and traveling.

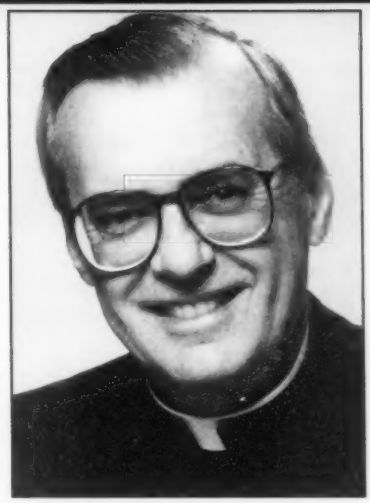
Pope John XXIII award

Personal commitment to academics and public service earned an Army Reserve chaplain the prestigious Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service.

Chaplain (Col.) Timothy O'Brien was honored at an awards banquet in April at Viterbo College, La Crosse, Wis. He is attached to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital in Milwaukee as hospital chaplain. He also serves the Fort McCoy, Wis., parish.

The award was established by the Viterbo College Board of Advisors in 1975 to recognize men and women who have distinguished themselves through service to higher education, to the community and to humankind. Contributions in one or several of the following fields — education, business, philanthropy, peace and justice and religious life — also are used to judge recipients.

Past recipients of the award include the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame; Dr.



Norman Vincent Peale, noted minister and publisher; and Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, the late archbishop of Chicago.

O'Brien said the nomination and subsequent award came as a complete surprise. Viterbo officials had requested information about him, but he thought that might be for a future speech.

"It means a great deal to me to receive an award named after Pope John XXIII," O'Brien said. "He very strongly influenced my decision to become a priest by promoting the modernization of the Catholic Church in the 20th century."

O'Brien said Pope John XXIII inspired him because he attempted to bring people of all religions together to further world peace by promoting the human rights and dignity of all people.

During his 25-year career as a priest, political scholar, teacher, writer and counsel to political leaders and ordinary citizens, O'Brien has encouraged people to be involved in public life, mindful of the fact it can be governed by moral principles and values.

Currently, O'Brien combines academics and public service as the director of the Marquette University Washington Center for Government in Washington, D.C. He also finds time to teach nine credits of college courses each semester as an adjunct professor of political science (American politics) for Marquette, located in Milwaukee.

"It's refreshing to be a priest at Fort McCoy because of the different ages and backgrounds of the people who worship there, and the fact they come from throughout the country," O'Brien said. "It also gives me a chance to get away from the city and the phone and meet and talk with people."

Top maintainers

By E.C. Starnes

The Army's best of the best in maintenance were announced in the Fiscal Year 1996 Army Chief of Staff's Army Award for Maintenance Excellence. The award goes to the Army's top maintainers, but the real winner is the Army as units from throughout the world compete annually for the honors.

The AAME program is designed to do more than simply recognize units for improved readiness. The goal is to tap the competitive spirit of the Army's maintenance community to inspire better overall maintenance programs, according to Jerry Macon. He oversees the program for the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, who's with the Ordnance Center and School's Tactical Support Equipment Department. In turn, the Army is better maintained and is better able to meet its missions, regardless of where and when the mission is slated.

The focus of the AAME is on unit-level programs and is a service-type award which recognizes overall unit operations over a 12-month period. The entire maintenance program is evaluated. Units are from the Reserve, active Army and National Guard.

The USAR winners:

MTOE Light Category

First Place - HHD, 467th Supply and Service Bn., Corpus Christi, Texas
Runner-up - HHD, 620th Corps Support Bn., St. Louis

MTOE Intermediate Category

First Place - 1011th Quartermaster Co., Independence, Kan.
Runner-up - HQ Co., 412th Engineer Command, Vicksburg, Miss.

MTOE Heavy Category

First Place - 1007th Maintenance Co., Hagerstown, Md.
Runner-up - 411th Engineer Combat Bn., Honolulu

(Starnes is the Ordnance Corps public affairs officer.)

201st PAD takes honors

Soldiers of the 310th Theater Support Command won three U.S. Army Europe awards for their work supporting the 1st Armored Division, Bad Kreuznach, Germany, during Operation Joint Guard.

The 201st Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Belvoir, Va., took two first place and one third place award in the 1996 USAREUR and 7th Army Print Journalism competition.

1st Lt. Eric Clark, commander, took first place for news articles. Sgt. Neal Snyder, photojournalist, took third in the same category. Snyder also placed first in the feature articles category.

The five members of the 201st — Clark, Snyder, SSgt. Ronald Mergel, Sgt. Lynford Morton and Spc. Carri Lee — activated June 20, 1996, and arrived in Bad Kreuznach July 5 of that year. The unit returned to the states February 1997. Over those seven months, they wrote more than 80 articles and more than 20 television segments.

448th CA Bn. honored by state

The 448th Civil Affairs Battalion was honored in April by the Washington state Senate and House of Representatives for its work in Haiti and throughout the world.

Located at Fort Lewis, Wash., the 448th is part of the Army Special Operations Command headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C. The unit was activated in January 1995 to provide civil affairs support to Operation Uphold Democracy in the Republic of Haiti. It returned from six months of active service in July 1995. Much of the unit's mission in Haiti consisted of refugee resettlement, reconstruction of essential services, planning a natural disaster program and setting up elections.

Both houses of the Washington state legislature passed resolutions recognizing the work of the 448th in Haiti. During debate on the House floor, resolution sponsor Representative Jack Cairns, a retired Vietnam War veteran, noted that the 448th "mission does not end with victory on the battlefield, but continues through the restructuring of civilian and governmental institutions and restoration of essential services such as medical and basic infrastructure."

Since returning from Haiti, members of the 448th have taken an active role in missions in Cambodia, Thailand, Korea, Guam, Croatia and Bosnia.

SSgt. Kathleen Ollander

Young visitors push a 1,050-pound red granite ball "floating" on a thin layer of water in front of Fort Discovery.

Fort Discovery offers kids world of math and science

By Gary Gilmore

Imagine a place where young (or old) minds can spend hours soaking up the latest science and technology using colorful, exciting hands-on displays.

In this instance, imagination is reality in Augusta, Ga., now that Fort Discovery is open to the public. Fort Discovery features more than 250 interactive scientific exhibits designed to appeal to young people.

The total tab for Fort Discovery reached about $38.5 million. This includes the donation of the 128,000-square-foot Port Royal Building, valued at about $20 million, by Morris Communications Corporation in Augusta.

The state of Georgia donated $10 million from lottery funds to cover the cost of the exhibits. Another $8.5 million to refurbish the building was raised from private and corporate donations — the largest capital campaign in the history of the Central Savannah River Area.

Fort Discovery is the result of a partnership between the U.S. Army and the National Science Center, Discovery Center, Inc., a private, not-for-profit organization Augusta.

"We could,, t do this program without our partners," Marilyn White, The Army's NSC executive actions officer at the Pentagon, said. "We partner with the state and local governments, plus the National Guard, Reserve, the [JROTC] summer camps, school districts and corporate sponsors.

"There is no single organization, federal, local government or private, with the resources it takes to do this well all by themselves anymore. You have to collaborate and share resources."

The NSC was created by Congress in 1985 in response to concerns that American youth were losing interest in mathematics and the sciences. The Army's National Science Center Task Force supports improved national science and technological education through interactive exhibits and educational outreach programs.

Army leaders realize tomorrow's soldiers will need high-tech minds and skills to operate 21st century weaponry and systems, White said. The NSC Discovery Center, Inc.'s, chairman and chief executive officer, retired Army Lt. Gen. William Hilsman, was the commander of Fort Gordon, Ga., in 1979 when he perceived that many recruits at the Army's Signal Center and School lacked knowledge and skills in math and sciences. Hilsman envisioned a program that would make math and science subjects interesting to American youth. Through his and others' efforts, Fort Discovery was created.

With the Army becoming increasingly high tech as America moves into the 21st century, White said programs like Fort Discovery will help impart important scientific knowledge to American youth while telling the Army story.

(Gilmore writes for Army News Service.)

USDB prepares inmates for life after lockup

Imagine someone telling you when to get up in the morning, what to do, when to eat, when to go to sleep.

No, it's not your mother. And no, it's not your drill sergeant.

Imagine being counted three times a day.

It's life at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. (See related story.)

You can spot the inmates around the post by their brown uniforms and the military police officer at their side. You can see them working at the "DB" greenhouse, bakery, car wash and barbershop.

These inmates, and others inside the DB, are part of an extensive vocational training program, an element of the rehabilitation process. The program helps the inmates to be more employable in the civilian sector when they leave confinement.

Formal classroom instruction and on-the-job training are given in such areas as carpentry, machine tool operation, graphic arts, sheet metal, plumbing and electrical/heating and air conditioning, among others.

The inmates draw no wages for their toil. They do, however, get a $35 monthly stipend from the Army for personal effects, greeting cards, stamps and the like.

The majority of the inmates are placed in medium custody and are housed in the "castle," an 8-story, brick building with a rotunda and eight wings. The structure towers above the austere Kansas landscape.

Inside the domicile wings are rows upon stacked rows of cells measuring 6 x 8 x 10 feet. You can almost touch the walls of the cell with your arms outstretched. The spartan cells contain a bed with green wool blanket, combination stainless steel sink and toilet, foot locker, shelf and drop-down desk. A metal, not glass, mirror hangs on the wall.

Those in minimum custody have proved themselves through hard work and good behavior. They live within the walled area but have extra privileges and live in a barracks or dormitory. Some inmates live in the trustee unit located outside the walled area. There are no fences or walls around the trustee unit.

There is time at the end of the day for recreation, the amount and type determined by the individual's custody level. There is a library, televisions, pool tables, gymnasium and 6-acre recreation field. Religious programs run every day of the week. Inmates can also take academic classes to earn a high school equivalency diploma through master's degree and use the learning center for individual study in other areas. This, again, helps them to be more marketable in the civilian world.

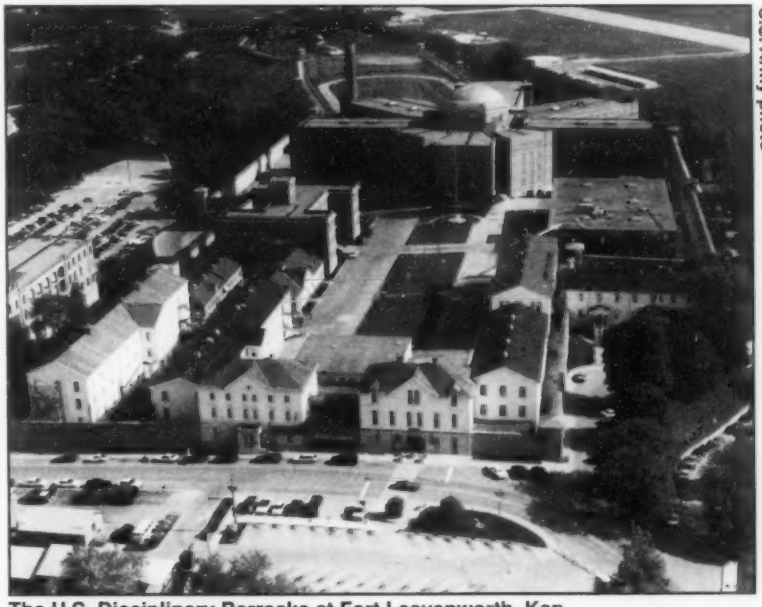
USDB facts

The U.S. Disciplinary Barracks is the only maximum security confinement facility in the Department of the Defense for all branches of service. It has been in operation since May 15, 1875.

The USDB can hold as many as 1,503 inmates. As of early April, 1,022 inmates were assigned, according to SSgt. Alvah Cappl, an MP assigned to the USDB Public Affairs Office. Of those, 618 were Army, and 46 of those were officers. Nine are serving death sentences and 18 are female.

Inmates are confined anywhere from 30 days to life for various reasons. About 77 percent are confined for crimes against persons, such as murder. About half are confined for sex-related offenses, including incest, pedophilia and rape. Only 11 percent are confined for drug offenses. Property crimes account for 9 percent of USDB inmates. Inmates confined for strictly military offenses account for only 1 percent.

The average inmate is 31 years old; nearly half are married. The most common rank is sergeant. with 77 months of military service before the offense. Average sentence length is just over 12 years; almost all are first-time offenders.



U.S. Army photo

The U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Q: Should men and women be integrated during Basic Training?

In 1978 I went through basic training with men as part of One Station Unit Training with the Military Police Corps. Approximately one-quarter of our company was female. In 1985 I attended OCS at Fort Benning, training alongside men. In neither instance do I recall any difficulties with sex-integrated training. I saw only benefits.

For example, men learned that women, too, could fire a weapon, dig a fighting position, etc. In fact, there were more problems between recruits of the same sex over things like politics, personal hygiene, attitude, etc.

It has been, and continues to be, my belief that if women and men are going to do their jobs together when they leave basic, they might as well learn from day one how to interact with one another in a professional and respectful manner.

Seems to me that the issue that needs to be addressed is not that of women and men training together, but drill sergeants living up to reasonable standards of professional conduct.

Capt. Melissa Herbert
Assistant Professor, Sociology
Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn.

Men and women should not be integrated during basic training.

I graduated from basic training in January 1997, and I noticed that there were a lot of relationships going on in my training environment. After being told [not to] on several occasions, this still continued. If males and females weren't in the same training environment, the temptation would not be there. I can't say that males and females training together affected their learning, but I feel that they would have been more focused if they were separated.

I also recall in the Reception Battalion, E4s and below getting dishonorable discharges because of sexual activity. I think that there should be training bases that train males with males and females with females only. I really believe that this would solve the sexual harassment issue also.

Pvt. Mary Ann Sturdivant
Syracuse, N.Y.

Yes, definitely! Men and women should be integrated during basic training. The aura of sexual harassment has created an environment of fear that is leading toward separation of soldiers by gender rather than building the Army team.

In the 1970s, men and women began training together in basic and AIT and did well. There were, of course, some problems with encounters between the soldiers, but that will happen in the world around us. The basic question is should SOLDIERS train together to develop the attitude of cohesive support and unit integrity? Yes, definitely!

Don Brown
U.S. Army Reserve Command DCSLOG

Pvt. Daniel Carrillo

A female soldier low crawls under barbed wire.

I graduated from an integrated BCT in August 1996 from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. At no time did I feel threatened by a male of any rank. Of course, we were given the typical threats of consequences by our commanding officers and NCOs. There were those few who had to test the system. They failed, but not completely.

The Army did not follow through with its threats, and basically those who misbehaved got a slap on the hand. If the Army had done what it promised, then no one would have dared make the same mistake. By dishonorably discharging those who were involved in sexual misconduct, I feel we would have a stronger, more team-oriented military.

I had an excellent experience training with men and women and would have trusted them with my life. It only makes sense that men and women train together since we must work together. Those who choose to use the military for a dating service need to be dishonorably discharged at a quick pace in order to achieve a smooth operating Army.

Spc. Kristen Brown
Urbana, Mo.

I do not believe that is it within the best interests of our military to integrate male and female trainees for the following reasons:

1. In many ways, men and women are *not* equal; one way is physical stamina. Women, necessarily, are required to perform at much lower standards than men; generally, women get injured more, are more sensitive to temperature extremes and are not physically designed for effective combat. These, along with a combination of other differences, affect unit morale when trying to level the playing field. These circumstances alone warrant separation. It's just not fair to males or females to expect the same performance levels from both.

2. The natural tendency for males to protect females distracts from mission accomplishment.

3. Anyone with the sense of a Holstein knows that gender-mixed basic training (if done correctly) creates an environment conducive to sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is still wrong, but a great deal of precious energy will have to be devoted to monitoring and addressing the issue, when it could be addressed in the soldiers' more leisurely advanced training.

4. The integration issue is purely political. Politics, especially when it relates to social experimentation, always confuses military readiness. Let's keep our Army as elite as possible.

Reasonably, we need to take the weaker, albeit essential, "links" and hook them up to lighter, non-combat loads where they can be effective. We would have a tougher, stronger Army if we maintained gender-specific MOSs and

training.

Bottom line: emasculating combat handicaps defense. I believe that when it comes to combat and combat-related MOSs (including basic training), *ideals should supersede fairness*. Lives depend, indeed, our National Security depends, on keeping our military combat ready, not on equal opportunity. The strictures of combat demand it be so.

Spc. Benjamin Ward
Williamston, N.C.

My husband and I both agree that men and women should *not* be integrated during basic training. Neither of us had men/women integrated units when we went through basic training in August 1992. We weren't even allowed to lift our heads when male soldiers walked by. Now my husband informs me that new male and female soldiers to his unit have told him they experienced more sexual encounters in basic training than they had in their 18-plus years of life. That's ridiculous!

Basic training soldiers need to be concerned with passing the APFT and CTT, practicing drill and ceremony and learning to shoot a weapon, not how they look in their PT uniform [to members of the opposite sex].

Spc. Susan Greenfield
Spc. Kurt Brubenhoff
Fort Stewart, Ga.

I hope that I am not being sexist about this, but I do not think men and women should be integrated during basic combat training. Basic training is a period of time when the soldiers should not be thinking of or doing anything other than learning basic combat skills so they may become good soldiers both in and out of combat. A vast majority of soldiers in BCT are in their late teens and I would even say still in puberty and as such if they are in the proximity of the opposite sex they will be distracted.

I base this on two main reasons. First, when I went through BCT, I could not wait to get out so I could "socialize." There is no doubt in my mind had I been allowed to be in contact with females during training I would have been at least trying to socialize.

Second, my brother went through BCT with females and told me that there was a good deal of misconduct going on when the DIs were not around. I believe that if the soldiers were not integrated during training this may still occur but would be less likely.

I have only been in the system for eight years, but it does seem to me that soldiers that are coming back to the units from BCT are less disciplined and motivated overall compared to a few years ago. I cannot attribute that to integrated training, but I would like to see training become more intense to better prepare these soldiers for the units and combat if and when they are called. I believe that segregation by sex during BCT would help to bring this about.

Last, my opinion on integrated training after BCT is that it should be integrated because we have to train the way we will fight and we will fight together! Also, any soldier who makes it through BCT, hopefully, has proved himself or herself fit to be a soldier and should not be segregated unless it is specifically necessary for training purposes.

WO1 Eric Nordby
Fremont, Neb.

Your question...is itself inaccurate and reflects a paternalistic arrogance which is, alarmingly, becoming legitimized during recent public discourse.

Since men and women are integrated during basic training, ask the real question, "Should men and women be discriminated against through forced segregation during basic training?"

How can we as a nation and an army even entertain such a flagrant attack on our country's progress toward gender and racial integration. As I've already mentioned, it is alarming when our elected officials demand that the whole be discriminated against "for their own safety" because of the crimes of the few.

Did anyone think beyond segregated basic training and realize that abuse of power can just as easily and horrifically occur within the sexes as between them?

Let's collectively find the backbone to deal with the core issues. Public and military outrage should be directed against those few DIs who commit any crime associated with abuse of power. Outrage should also be directed against the few trainees who willfully and without coercion violate the UCMJ articles on fraternization. Outrage should not be directed against an integrated training program; it is misplaced and diverts effort away from the real problem.

The military leadership needs to review the policies and procedures that may (or may not) have created an environment which some individuals find conducive to conducting sexual misconduct and fraternization crimes. It needs to take corrective action to rectify this specific, stand-alone problem.

And finally, the military leadership must reject the pressure being exerted by civilian legislators to resurrect legitimized segregation as was typified by the all-Negro units and Women's Army Corps.

Maj. Jennifer Sirois
Summit, N.J.

Men and women should be integrated in basic training. Should we be deployed, we won't be deployed as a women's Army and a men's Army. We will be deployed as an Army.

Learning to work together side by side from the beginning is an excellent way to prepare soldiers for the integration they will have later in their units. It also helps to erase some of the stereotypes that male soldiers have of females when they can see their female teammates in action.

I trained in an integrated BT unit, and everybody pulled their own weight. Indirectly, we were all motivated to do a little better and push ourselves a little harder. We learned the value of teamwork and how to put aside our personal beliefs and differences to get the mission accomplished.

As for the problems with fraternization and sexual harassment, these are clearly violations of UCMJ and should be treated as such. We cannot have segregated training simply because some individuals do not have self control. It would be analogous to taking away the right to vote simply because some elected officials are crooks.

Spc. Eve Vaaron
Utica, N.Y.

Tell us what you think

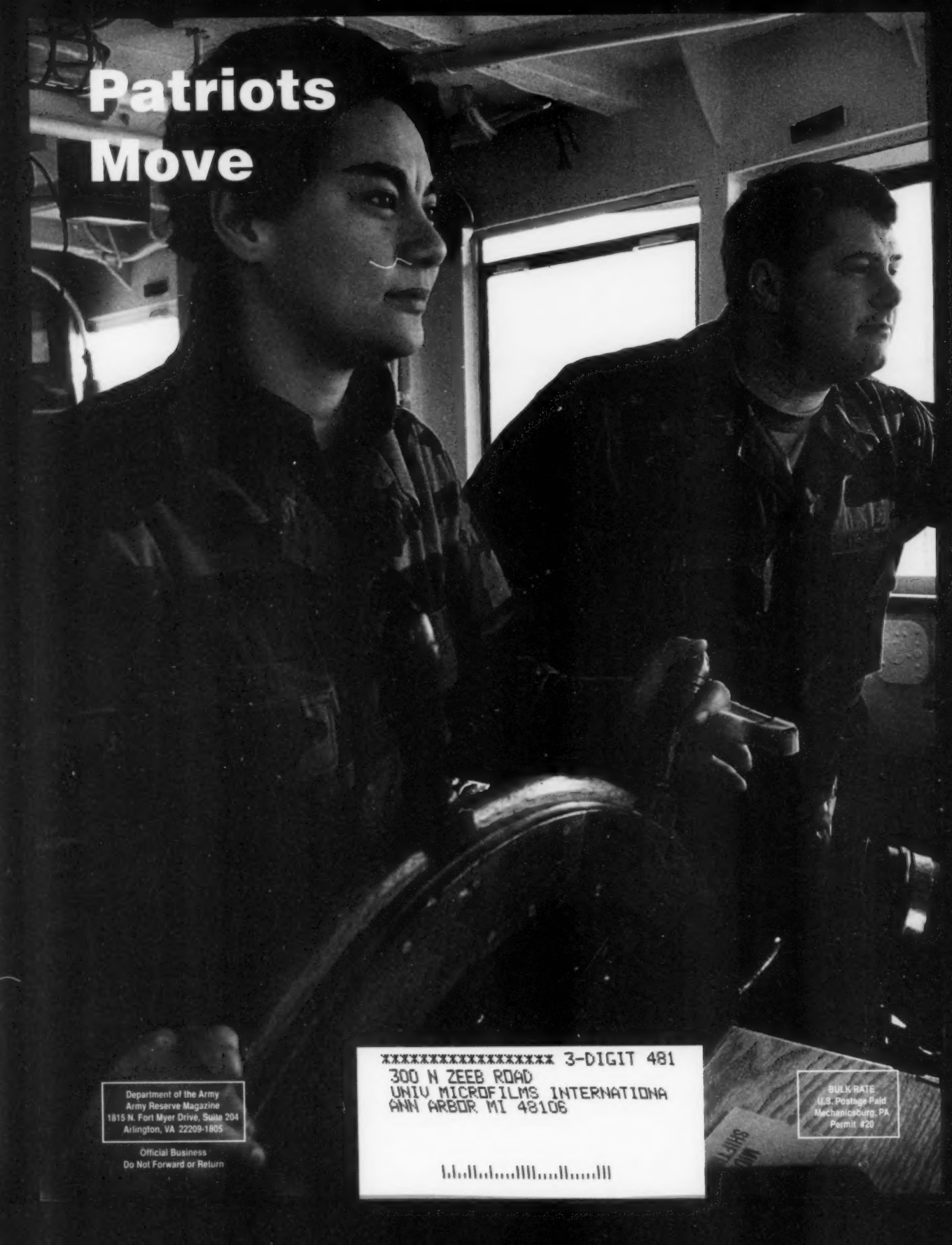
Q: Do you think Congress should suspend the Mobilization Income Insurance Program? Why or why not.

Send letters to
Editor, Army Reserve Magazine
1815 N. Ft. Myer Dr., Suite 204
Arlington, VA 22209-1805

Fax: (703) 696-3745

E-mail:
usarmag@pentagon-ocar1.army.mil

Include your full name, rank, hometown and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited.



Department of the Army
Army Reserve Magazine
1815 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 204
Arlington, VA 22209-1905

Official Business
Do Not Forward or Return

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx 3-DIGIT 481
300 N ZEEB ROAD
UNIV MICROFILMS INTERNATIONA
ANN ARBOR MI 48106

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage Paid
Mechanicsburg, PA
Permit #20